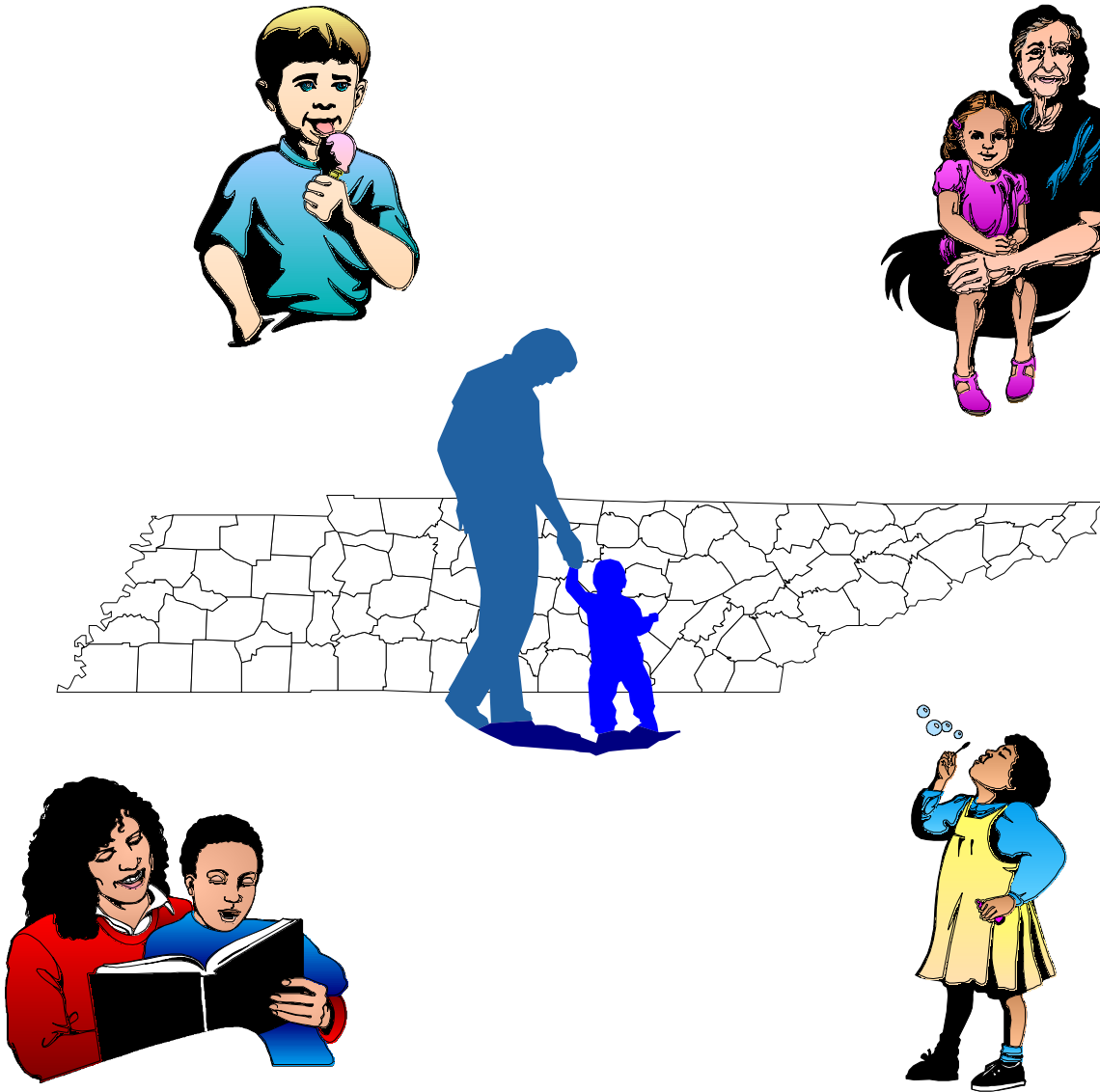


# ***THE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF INCARCERATED FELONS:***

## *A STATUS REPORT AND DEMOGRAPHIC INQUIRY*



**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
PLANNING AND RESEARCH SECTION**

**APRIL 1995**

## **Table of Contents**

<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section One:</b> Introduction	<b>3</b>
<b>Section Two:</b> Methodology	<b>8</b>
<b>Section Three:</b> Demographics of the Survey Respondents	<b>10</b>
<b>Section Four:</b> The Families and Children of Incarcerated Felons in Tennessee	<b>19</b>
<b>Section Five:</b> Prison Visitation and Family Programs in Other States	<b>26</b>
<b>Section Six:</b> Conclusions:	<b>33</b>
<b>Appendix A:</b> Survey Instrument	
<b>Appendix B:</b> TDOC Policy #507.01 - Visitation	

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Senate Joint Resolution 319, sponsored by Senator Thelma Harper and passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 1994, required that information be collected about children who are affected by the incarceration of their parents. More specifically, the Tennessee Department of Correction was instructed to accomplish three things: a) gather information concerning felons incarcerated in Tennessee prisons and their families; b) estimate the number of children affected by the incarceration of their parent(s); and c) gather information on prison visitation policies and programs nationwide.

The Department of Correction's Planning and Research staff devised a survey instrument which was then randomly administered to 18.7% of the male felon population (n=2,247) and 65.8% of the female felon population (n=260). The instrument was administered in group settings at each institution to randomly identified volunteers. Surveys were administered to the random sample of felons incarcerated in Department of Correction state facilities.

Highlights of the department's research include:

- ❑ 67.5% of male felons and 81.2% of female felons incarcerated in Tennessee's state prisons have children.
- ❑ Overall, felons have 2.4 children each. Male felons reported an average of 2.42 children, and female felons reported an average of 2.45 children.
- ❑ There are an estimated 17,462 individuals of all ages affected by the incarceration of their parents in Tennessee state prisons.
- ❑ There are an estimated 16,557 individuals of all ages affected by the incarceration of their parents in Tennessee state prisons who live in Tennessee.
- ❑ There are an estimated 12,616 individuals under the age of 18 who are affected by the incarceration of their parents in Tennessee state prisons who live in Tennessee.
- ❑ Nearly 32% of the 12,616 individuals under the age of 18 -- 3,975 children -- are reported to be supported through public assistance. The majority of these children are between the ages of 6 and 12 years of age.
- ❑ According to Department of Youth Development figures, an average of 99 students per month for the first seven months of FY 1994-95 had at least one parent incarcerated in the adult system.
- ❑ For those felons having children, 34.3% of male felons and 6.09% of female felons reported their children are currently living with the felon's spouse while the felon is incarcerated. 15.58% of male felons and 4.57% of female felons reported their children are living with the felon's partner while the felon is incarcerated.
- ❑ 12.45% of male felons and 43.15% of female felons reported their children are living with their grandparents while the felon is incarcerated.

- ❑ 1.64% of male felons and 7.11% of female felons reported their children are living in foster homes while the felon is incarcerated.
- ❑ Male felons reported living an average of 176.96 miles from their children and families, and female felons reported living an average of 218.4 miles from their children and families. Based on the region in which the felon was living prior to being incarcerated, female felons from West and East Tennessee live significantly further distances from their families than male felons from the same region. This is not surprising given the Department of Correction operates only one female facility and that facility is the Tennessee Prison for Women in Middle Tennessee.

Reconciliation Ministries, a non-profit organization offering assistance to the families of offenders - and a supporter of SJR 319 -- offered the following statement concerning this report:

Reconciliation appreciates the care and effort TDOC has put into this study, which brings attention to a long-forgotten group of crime victims: the children of prisoners.

We hope this study will help policy-makers understand the importance of family bonds in a long-term crime reduction strategy, and encourage them to include families in their planning. Appropriate intervention programs and services for children of inmates and their parents have been shown to reduce the likelihood of intergenerational incarceration. Secure, supervised and comfortable visiting conditions for children will benefit all family members -- including the inmate -- and offer a valuable management tool to corrections personnel.

By including synopses of programs offered to families of inmates in other states, the report underscores the importance of appropriate programming for inmate family members. Reconciliation hopes that Tennessee can be a leader in effective crime reduction programs that strengthen the family and build on family bonds. The families of offenders must be recognized as a valuable asset and ally in the fight against crime.

The findings of this report represent broad policy issues concerning incarceration and its costs that the State of Tennessee may wish to consider and address as it moves into the future.

## SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

The problem of crime has become almost an obsession with the American media and people in general. Regardless of whether such widespread fear is appropriate or not, people are concerned about crime and its various impacts. Still, one of the least talked about impacts of crime is the impact the incarceration of an individual has upon his or her family. Also less talked about are the impacts crime has upon the social and programmatic infrastructure.

A recent article stated the following:

There have been no studies of the effects of such high imprisonment rates on the wider black society -- for example, on the children of prisoners. No government or private agency has suggested any way to lighten the influence of paternal and sibling imprisonment on children, or how to balance the potential value of such an effort against the need to suppress violent crime. ...<sup>1</sup>

The intent of Senate Joint Resolution 319 was to begin to take a serious look at the effect of incarceration on children in Tennessee. The Tennessee Department of Correction was instructed to look at its felony population, extract certain demographics pertaining to children and families, and to estimate the number of children in the State of Tennessee affected by the incarceration of their parents.

Before the results of the survey are presented, however, it might prove beneficial to take a brief look at some of the existing literature concerning the impact of incarceration and its impact upon the families of felons.

Much of the literature provides certain evidence and supports family ties to the offender during the offender's incarceration, and during the offender's reintegration back into the community. As early as 1963, criminologists were commenting on the role of the family in the offender's life, and the lack of research into this area:

Because of their closeness to prisoners, prisoners' families probably bear the largest portion of the extra-mural suffering resulting from imprisonment. Commenting on the little attention given this phenomenon, two prominent American criminologists made this observation:

"It seems strange that society fails to give any thought whatsoever to the prisoner's family when he is summarily locked up. His dependents are the real sufferers. It is likewise strange that so little research has been done concerning this group and their status."<sup>2</sup>

Schneller goes on to relate earlier studies. While the findings of these studies may be questioned for a variety of reasons, many seem to be "common sense truths" and certainly point the direction for

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<sup>1</sup>Adam Walinsky, "The Crisis of Public Order," *The Atlantic Monthly*, July 1995, pp. 47-48.

<sup>2</sup>Donald P. Schneller, "The Prisoner's Family: A Study of the Effects of Imprisonment on the Families of Prisoners," R and E Research Associates, San Francisco, 1976, p. 1.

additional research. James Blackwell looked into inmate families in a 1959 dissertation. According to Schneller:

Blackwell found the following variables positively related to good adjustment to the separation:

1. High family income before separation
2. High level of education by the couple
3. Wife pregnant at time of marriage
4. Couple divorced at the time of incarceration
5. Good marital adjustment before separation
6. Short minimum sentence
7. Separation not seen by wife as a crisis
8. Present marriage of long duration
9. Large amount of mail correspondence during incarceration
10. Good institutional adjustment by inmate
11. Wife's social participation during husband's absence<sup>3</sup>

In a much more highly regarded study, Pauline Morris conducted a study of prisoners and their families in Great Britain. Schneller reports:

The following of Morris' hypotheses were supported by the findings of the study:

1. Family relationships following upon conviction and imprisonment will follow a pattern set by the family relationships existing before imprisonment.
2. Wives with wide kinship networks will seek additional support from them during the husband's imprisonment.

Morris' study of social service agencies showed that these agencies did not have extensive contact with the prisoners' families, even though the families needed the agencies' services. It also appeared that families deeply resented having to beg for charity even from welfare agencies.<sup>4</sup>

In Schneller's review, one study focused primarily on the children of incarcerated felons. This was a 1964 study conducted by Serapio Zalba. The findings were as follows:

Fifty-two percent of the children in the study were six years old or less. The median family size was two children. There were some 205 fathers involved in the field study as opposed to 124 mothers. In about half the cases the fathers were not legally married to the mothers. Twenty percent of the children were in foster homes; 25 percent were living with their fathers; 55 percent were living with relatives, generally grandparents.

Twenty-two of the 124 mothers studied in the field study reported that their children had behavioral problems. Fifty-six percent of the children had been separated from one or more of their siblings. Visits from the children to their mothers were few and in 47 percent of the cases the children had not seen their mothers since their incarceration. Sixty-six

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<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid., p. 10.

percent of the children had experienced at least one change of responsible adult since leaving their mothers.

About fifty percent of the children in the study were being supported by public assistance, ADC. Zalba states that about half the children were being assisted by social service agencies. It also appeared that relatives provided a better opportunity for identification and development of a sense of belonging that did foster homes.<sup>5</sup>

A study by Heather Deane conducted in 1988 focused on male inmates and the impact their incarceration had on their families. Deane noted several things which impact both the male felon and his family: family dismemberment and familial reaction to the absence of the father; "prisonization" and the extent to which the male offender associates with others in prison; reintegration and resources available to the male offender at the time he leaves prison; and the general stigma involved by the mere fact of incarceration. Deane further recounted problems faced by the families of these offenders, including: financial distress and condition; housing problems; problems incurred by visitation or that prevent visitation; loneliness; increased health problems; problems with children's behavior; and changes in the relationship with the spouse.<sup>6</sup>

A review of a topical search conducted by the National Institute of Justice also produced a review of other studies. Abstracts of two pertinent studies are included below.

*Imprisoned Mothers and Their Children - A Descriptive and Analytical Study* by Z. W. Henriques, published in 1982.

The 30 mothers participating in this study were incarcerated in a relatively new and innovative prison serving offenders with a 1-year maximum sentence. Onsite interviews were conducted with 15 children, 7 guardians, 5 foster care workers, 23 institutional personnel, and 21 criminal justice and child welfare workers. Most of the mothers were minority-group members from large families who had married and borne children as adolescents; they were charged with robbery and related offenses, and more than half had used drugs. Public assistance was the primary means of support for 73 percent. More than 90 percent of the 15 children were 12 years of age or younger, and all lived with relatives who found caring for them difficult. All depended on public assistance, and most knew their mothers were imprisoned. Though mothers maintained contact with their children through visits, letters, and telephone calls, they worried about their children's physical care and emotional development. Most imprisoned mothers had not been meeting their parental responsibilities, but were keenly aware of their duties to their children. Because several agencies were involved, child-care needs were fragmented.

*Parents in Prison - A Comparative Analysis of the Effects of Incarceration on the Families of Men and Women* by L. A. Koban, published in 1983.

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<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 8.

<sup>6</sup>Heather Deane, "The Social Effects of Imprisonment on Male Prisoners and Their Families," Victoria University of Wellington, Institute of Criminology, 1988, pp. 6-13, 39-62.

All the women in the Kentucky prison system were contacted, and 85 percent (n=95) agreed to be interviewed. An equal number of men were selected from two men's prisons comparable to the women's in location and security classification. An attempt was made to control male participants for their comparability to the female population in offense, age, race, and length of time served. Several questions posed to the inmates addressed their satisfaction with their children's placement and their feelings about whether the children were happy and well treated. The majority of the questions focused on more objective indicators of the stability of the relationship. Seventy-six percent of the women and 56 percent of the men surveyed were parents. Female offenders had closer relationships with their children prior to their incarceration. Supporting data show that most women were living with their children and most men were not prior to their incarceration; that most women retained legal custody; that fewer women than men decided not to have their children visit; that women are more likely to be visited at least once; and that more women planned to reunite with their children after release. Further, women's relationships with their children and the family structure are more strained by incarceration than are men's families. This was shown by the data indicating that men's children usually remain with their mothers; that men think their children are happier; that more men than women have frequent contact with their children; that fewer men have problems getting through to their children; that men can depend on the child's mother to bring the children for a visit; that men's children are less often separated from their siblings; and that men are usually not incarcerated as far from their home communities as are women.

In the early 1990s, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD) revisited one of its earlier studies. Among the findings of that NCCD study were:

- ❑ The child welfare system must initiate cooperation with the justice system for the sake of forgotten children and families. The majority of these children do not come under the jurisdiction of the public child welfare system which usually responds only to reports of abuse and neglect. Of 59 child welfare agency executives interviewed for the NCCD study, more than half had no specific policies related to children of incarcerated parents, but 85% believed that a closer working relationship with the correctional system would aid in family reunification.
- ❑ Child welfare service providers must advocate for policies that promote and support kinship care... . Most children of incarcerated parents are cared for by grandmothers and other relatives, who need backup and respite care, training and emotional support, financial help, and help in accessing other resources.
- ❑ Family reunification must be pursued for the approximately 25% of the children of incarcerated parents who are cared for by unrelated foster families. This is a considerable challenge to the child welfare system.<sup>7</sup>

Finally, Fritsch and Burkhead conducted a study in 1991 that focused on the behavior of children after the incarceration of one of the parents. They reported:

... it may be seen that incarcerated mothers and fathers did indeed report experiencing distinctive types of problem with their children. Fathers report experiencing more acting-out problems, and mothers report more acting-in incidences. It is interesting that parents included in this study report problems with their children in precisely those areas where they would traditionally accept major responsibility for the rearing of children if living at home.

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<sup>7</sup>"When a Parent Goes to Prison, the Child Does the Time," Children's Voice, Fall 1993, p. 24.



Absence of the father who normally assumes the role of disciplinarian leads to acting-out behavior. On the other hand, absence of the mother whose usual function is to nurture and provide emotional support for her children contributes to acting-in behavior.<sup>8</sup>

The research presented in the following sections of this report tends to support many of the concepts contained and outlined within the literature. While extensive enough studies have not been conducted to determine the true impact of incarceration on children, this study represents the first attempt of the State of Tennessee and the Tennessee Department of Correction to preliminarily assess the extent to which incarceration impacts the lives of children in Tennessee.

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<sup>8</sup>Travis A. Fritsch and John D. Burkhead, "Behavioral Reactions of Children to Parental Absence Due to Imprisonment," *Family Relations*, 1981, 30, 86. The authors define "acting-out" as those behaviors such as hostility, substance abuse, running away, truancy, aggression, delinquency, and disciplinary problems. "Acting-in" is defined as behaviors such as daydreaming, unwillingness to engage in social activities, withdrawal, acting babyish, fear of school, crying, a drop in school work, and nightmares.

## SECTION TWO: METHODOLOGY

The methodology used to conduct this survey is fairly straightforward. It was determined that a survey instrument was the most efficient method by which to collect the information required by the joint resolution. This instrument would then be randomly distributed to volunteering felons housed in Tennessee state prisons.

In order to produce the level of accuracy needed to estimate the number of children in Tennessee affected by the incarceration of one or more of their parents, a random sample of 20% of the male felon population was planned, as well as a census of the female felon population. Because the female felon population is such a small percentage of the total population, female felons were intentionally over sampled. A 20% random sample of the male population at each state facility was generated from the Tennessee Offender Management Information System (TOMIS). The sampling plan for felons to survey included all state correctional facilities (based on total beds available), and is represented on the following page in Table 1.

To achieve this distribution, each male facility was provided with a total number of felons to be surveyed, and two random lists of felons at their facility. Felons who appeared on the initial list were excluded from appearing on the second random list. As an inmate on the primary list refused to participate, facility staff used the secondary list to find a replacement. Once the instruments were received by the facility, the surveys were administered in groups so as to have a staff person present to answer questions and to facilitate the completion of the survey. Facility staff were instructed that the survey was to be completed voluntarily, but also to attempt to get as close to the 20% of male felons benchmark as they possibly could using both random lists. Where sample sizes were small, voluntary participation dropped and the facility had to request additional random names of offenders.

The surveys were completed and returned to the Planning and Research Section, who then initially coded the survey instrument. Staff from the Tennessee Rehabilitation and Inmate Labor Board (TRAIL) were used to enter the information from the completed surveys into a computerized format. Staff used dBase IV to replicate the survey on the computer screen, and then entered the data from all completed surveys. Planning and Research staff then viewed the data, and ran preliminary statistics to determine where data entry flaws existed. All discovered flaws were subsequently corrected by returning to the original survey form to ensure the correct information had been entered. Those surveys which clearly demonstrated they were nonfactual were deleted from consideration. This total numbered fewer than 10. One facility took the initiative to survey offender prior to numbered instruments being disseminated, causing the facility to be over-represented. As staff had numbered these surveys on their own, these additional surveys were deleted from consideration in the overall analysis of the survey data.

Overall, 18.7% (2,247) of the male felon population and 65.87% (260) of the female felon population is represented, for a total sample of 2,507. These relative weights were used to determine the number of children affected in Tennessee. Throughout other sections of the report, total percentages reported by felons is used with no relative weight attached.

TABLE 1:  
PLANNED SAMPLING DISTRIBUTION FOR SURVEY

FACILITY	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Brushy Mountain	103	0	103
Cold Creek	135	0	135
Chattanooga C S C	20	20	40
Carter County W C	42	0	42
Knoxville C S C	30	0	30
Lake County Regional	149	0	149
Morgan County Reg.	173	0	173
Mark Luttrell Reception	92	0	92
Middle TN Reception	129	0	129
Nashville C S C	65	0	65
Northeast C C	267	0	267
Northwest C C	267	0	267
Riverbend Maximum	122	0	122
South Central C C	267	0	267
DeBerry Special Needs	112	0	112
Southeastern TN Reg.	171	0	171
Turney Center	194	0	194
TN Prison for Women	0	362	362
Wayne County Boot Camp	30	0	30
West TN High Security	128	0	128
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,496	382	2,878

## SECTION THREE: DEMOGRAPHICS OF THE SURVEY RESPONDENTS

The demographics and backgrounds of the incarcerated felons who responded to the survey are quite diverse. These individuals come from a variety of family backgrounds and relationships. This section of the report describes some of the personal characteristics and demographics of these individuals.

**AGE.** The largest number of the male respondents were in the age group of 30 to 34 years of age (20.61%), while the largest number of female respondents were in the age category 25 to 29 years of age (26.23%). See Chart 1. The average age overall was 33.85 years. There was little difference between the mean age for male felons (33.84) and for female felons (33.9).

The average age for felons who indicated that they had children was slightly higher than the average age for all felons responding: 34.77 years of age. The average age for men who indicated they had children was 34.84 years, and the average age for women who stated they had children was 34.31 years, just slightly younger.

Chart 2 depicts the age grouping of felons who stated that they had children.

Chart 1

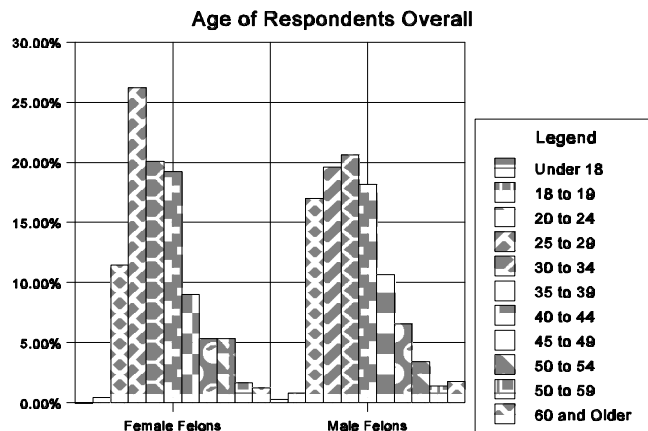
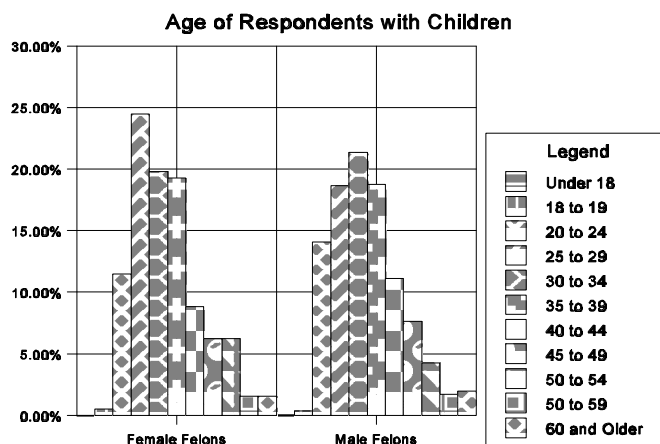
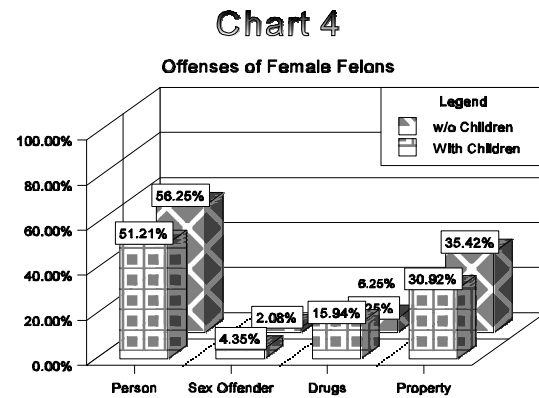
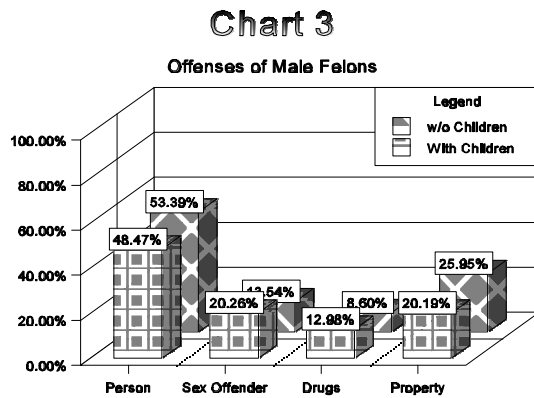


Chart 2

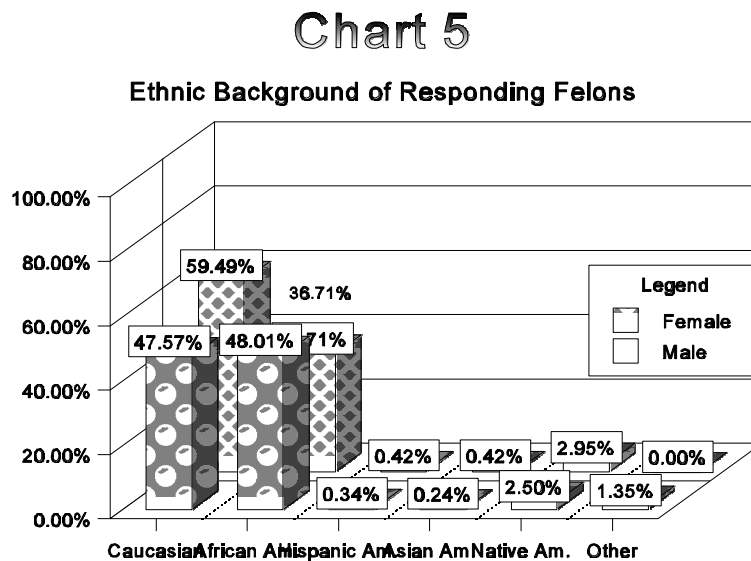


**CRIMINAL OFFENSE.** Charts 3 and 4 below give an overview of the charges for which respondents are incarcerated, and break them into categories of those with children and those without children. There does not appear to be any difference in the distribution of offenses based upon whether or not a felon has children. The distribution of offenses overall follows a similar pattern.



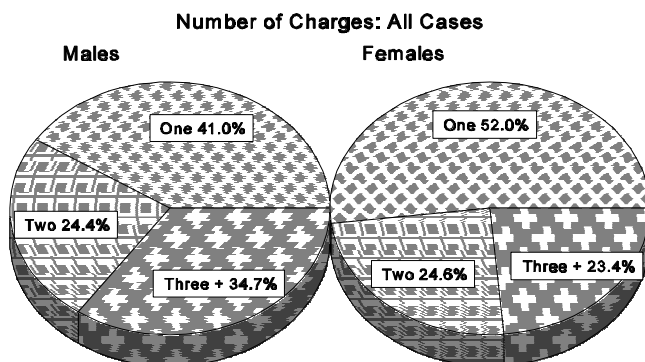
**ETHNIC BACKGROUND.** Those felons surveyed were asked to indicate their ethnic background.

Chart 5 indicates the responses received. Overall, there is little difference in the ethnic composition of the male and female felon populations.



**NUMBER OF CHARGES CURRENTLY SERVING TIME FOR, LENGTH OF SENTENCE, AND TIME SPENT IN PRISON.** Felons answering the survey were asked a series of questions concerning the reason they were in prison and the sentence they received for their particular crimes. Charts 6 and 7 display the results of those responses.

**Chart 6**



It appears that there is no difference between the number of charges felons are serving overall, and the number of charges felons with children are serving.

With respect to the length of sentence imposed on the felons surveyed, there is virtually no difference between sentences imposed overall and sentences imposed on felons with children. Approximately 5% (5.13% for all cases, 5.06% for cases reporting children) reported serving 1 to 3 year sentences. Approximately 7% (6.76% for all cases, 6.79% for cases reporting children) reported serving 4 to 5 year sentences. Over 30% (30.03% for all cases, 30.75% for cases reporting children) reported serving 6 to 10 year sentences. Approximately 25% (26.15% for all cases, 25.63% for cases reporting children) reported serving 11 to 20 year sentences. Nearly one-quarter (24.95% for all cases, 24.92% for cases reporting children) reported serving sentences of 26 years and longer. Ten death row cases appeared in the random sample, which is fairly representative of the entire population. Three (3) of those cases reported having children.

**Chart 7**

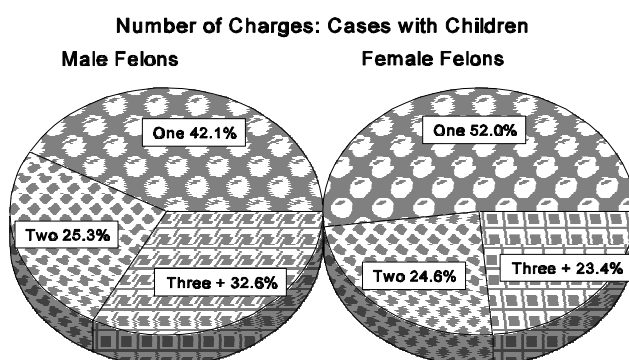
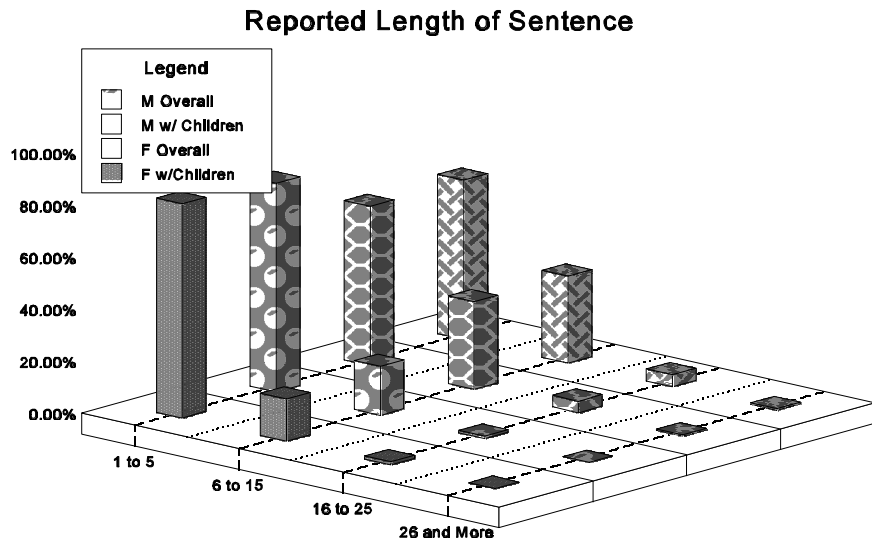


Chart 8 depicts the time felons reported having been in prison on their current sentences. As with the length of sentence imposed, there is virtually no difference between time spent in prison thus far overall, and time spent in prison thus far for felons with children. Interesting to note is the fact that a greater percentage of female felons fall into the 1 to 5 years spent in prison than do male felons. Approximately 45% of males reported having spent between 1 and 5 years in prison in both cases, while approximately 69% of female felons reported the same.

## Chart 8



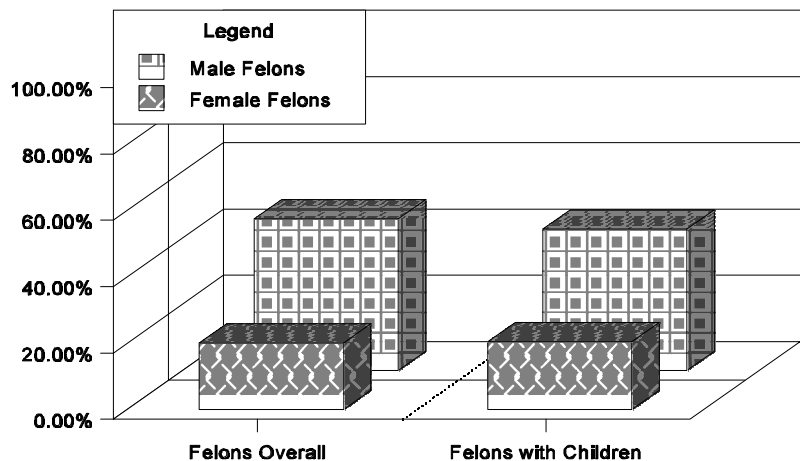
***TROUBLE WITH THE LAW BEFORE 18 YEARS OF AGE, AND WHETHER FELONS HAD BEEN IN A JUVENILE FACILITY BEFORE TURNING 18 YEARS OF AGE.***

Felons responding to the survey were also asked to report whether or not this was the first time they had been in prison.

Overall, 41.08% of felons surveyed reported they had been in prison before, while 40.34% of felons with children reported that they had been in prison prior to this incarceration. Overall, 43.09% of felons responding indicated that they had been in trouble with the law prior to their being 18 years of age. For those felons with children, 39.95% reported being in trouble with the law prior to being 18 years of age. The gender breakdowns are provided in Chart 9.

## Chart 9

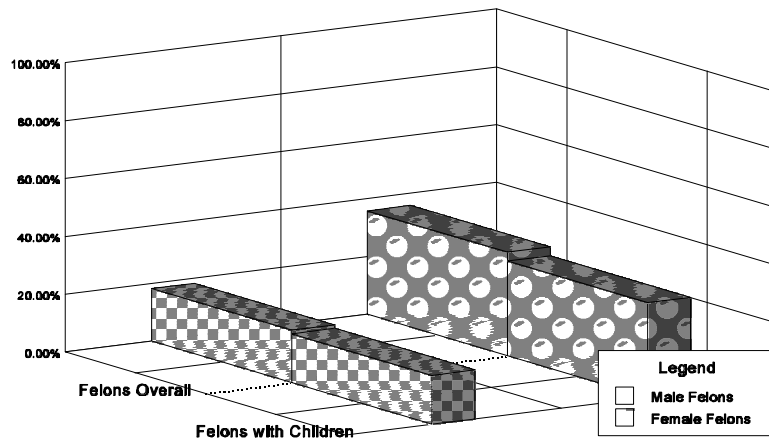
**Trouble With Law Before 18**



Felons were also asked if they had been in a juvenile institution (detention center, youth center, or youth development center) prior to being 18 years of age. Overall, felons responded that 33.93% had been in a juvenile facility. Felons with children reported that 30.81% of them had been in a juvenile facility. Breakdown by gender is provided in Chart 10.

## Chart 10

Juvenile Facility Before 18



### ***LIVING ARRANGEMENTS OF RESPONDING FELONS JUST PRIOR TO INCARCERATION.***

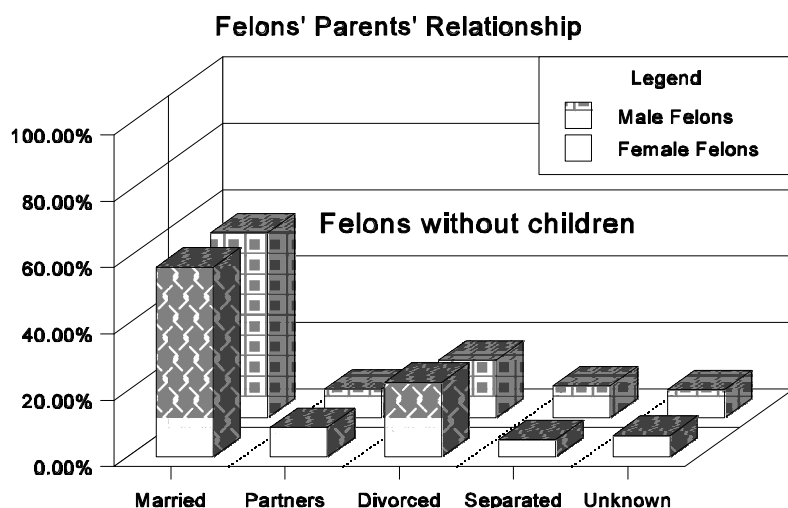
Twenty-seven percent (27.63%) of male felons and 22.87% of female felons reported being married prior to being incarcerated, while nearly a third (31.61% for male felons and 34.50% for female felons) reported living with a partner. For felons with children, 36.29% of male felons and 25.37% of female felons reported being married, 31.89% of male felons and 31.22% of female felons reported living with a partner. In both instances, female felons reported a higher rate of divorce. For felons overall, 9.10% of male felons and 13.57% of female felons reported being divorced. For felons with children, 10.38% of male felons and 15.12% of female felons reported being divorced.

***CHILDHOOD AND BACKGROUND OF FELONS.*** Felons responding to the survey were asked several questions about their own personal backgrounds. Overall, 5.43% of male felons and 5.79% of female felons reported that they had been adopted. Felons with children reported that 5.42% of male felons and 5.83% of female felons had been adopted. Response rates for foster care were slightly higher. Overall, 8.38% of male felons and 9.92% of female felons reported having been placed in foster care situations as a child. Eight percent (8.28%) of male felons with children and 8.91% of female felons with children reported having been placed in foster care as a child.

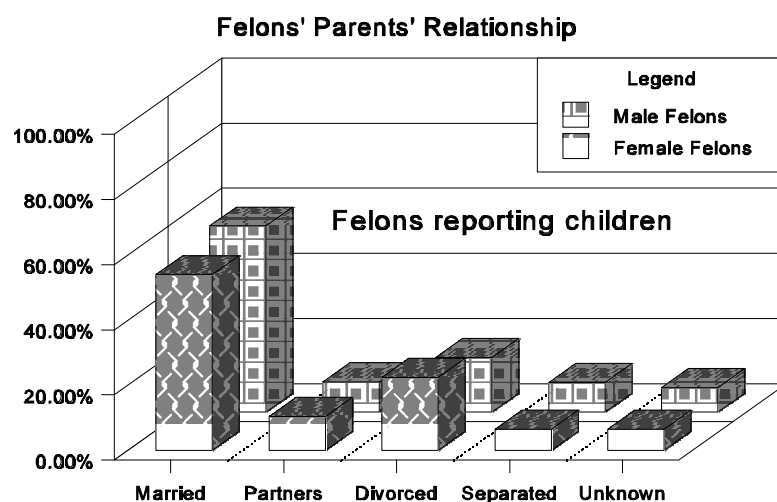
Chart 11 depicts the reported relationship of responding felons' parents during the felon's childhood. Chart 12 depicts the reported relationship for felons reporting children. Just over one-half (56%) of felons overall and felons reporting children indicate that their parents were married. Nearly eighteen percent (17.92%) of felons overall reported divorced parents, while 17.47% of felons with children reported their parents were divorced. Female felons appeared to report a higher rate of divorced parents in both cases, while male felons reported slightly higher rates of separated parents.



# Chart 11



# Chart 12



Felons were also asked to indicate "of those who raised you, who did you live with the longest." Overall, 82.68% of male felons reported that they lived longest with their parents, and 79.40% of female felons reported they lived longest with their parents. For felons who had children, 82.98% of male felons and 77.84% of female felons reported living longest with their parents. Felons indicated being raised by grandparents as the second most common childhood situation. Overall, 10.07% of male felons and 12.02% of female felons reported that they had lived longest with their grandparents.

Chart 13 indicates the responses given by felons when asked if either of their parents or their guardians had been in prison during the felon's childhood.

There was very little difference in the responses between felons overall and felons reporting children. Male felons appeared to have a higher rate of parental incarceration than female felons in both instances.

Over two hundred (n=239 or 9.85%) felons reported that either their parent(s) or guardian(s) had been in prison. Of these, 79.64% (176) male felons and 72.22% (13) of female felons reported that their fathers had been in prison. While only 15.84% (35) of male felons indicated that their mother had been in prison, 22.22% (4) of female felons reported their mothers had been in prison. Over 100 (n=165) felons with children reported that a parent or guardian had been incarcerated while they were growing up. Of these, 79.87% (119) of male felons and 81.25% (13) of female felons reported their fathers had been incarcerated, and 17.45% (26) of male felons and 12.5% (2) of female felons reported their mothers had been incarcerated.

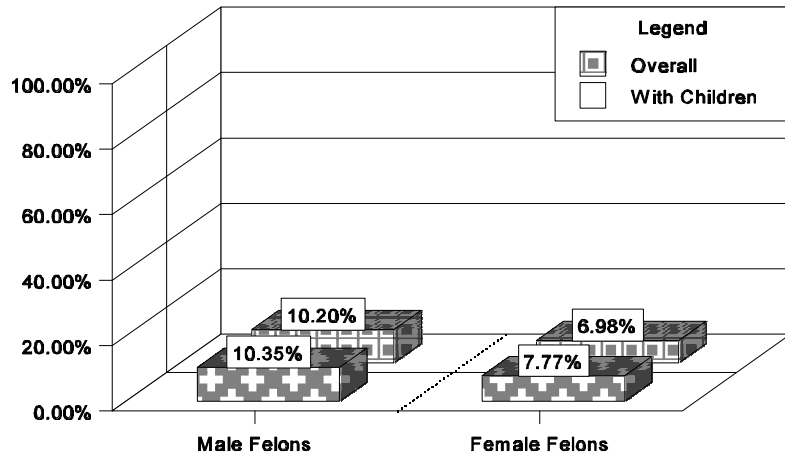
#### **POST-INCARCERATION LIVING ARRANGEMENTS.**

Felons were asked to indicate how they supported themselves and their families prior to being incarcerated, where they planned to live after they were released from prison, and how they planned to support their families once they were released from prison.

Chart 14 demonstrates the responses felons gave concerning where they planned to live once they were released from incarceration. Female felons overall reported their plans were to stay in Tennessee at rates greater than those for

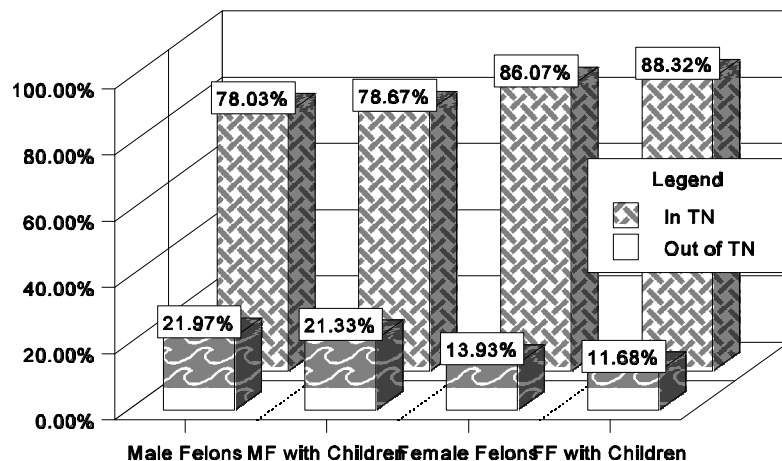
### Chart 13

**Parents or Guardians Incarcerated?**



### Chart 14

**Post Incarceration Living Arrangements**



male felons. While there appears to be no difference in plans for male felons with or without children, slightly larger percentages of female felons with children reported that they planned to stay in Tennessee once released from prison.

Table 2 indicates responses as to how felons supported themselves and their families before being incarcerated.

TABLE 2:  
SUPPORT OF FELONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Method of Support Before Incarceration	Male Felons	Male Felons with Children	Female Felons	Female Felons with Children
Job	79.88%	82.53%	67.69%	66.67%
Drugs/Crime	15.40%	15.64%	17.31%	16.43%
Public Assistance	2.54%	1.97%	13.46%	15.94%
Other	8.50%	8.23%	17.31%	18.36%

The most notable indications from felons' responses is that female felons report a much higher rate of supporting themselves and their families with public assistance. This rate is even higher for female felons with children. Also, female felons report supporting themselves and their families through drugs and crime at a rate slightly higher than that for male felons.

Table 3 indicates how felons reported they would be supporting themselves and their families once released from prison. A conscious decision was made to exclude "drugs and crime" from the option to enhance respondent willingness to answer the survey believably without fear of retribution.

TABLE 3:  
POST-INCARCERATION SUPPORT OF FELONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Method of Support Before Incarceration	Male Felons	Male Felons with Children	Female Felons	Female Felons with Children
Job	88.52%	90.62%	85.77%	85.99%
Public Assistance	3.16%	2.31%	5.00%	6.28%
Other	7.52%	7.41%	10.00%	10.63%

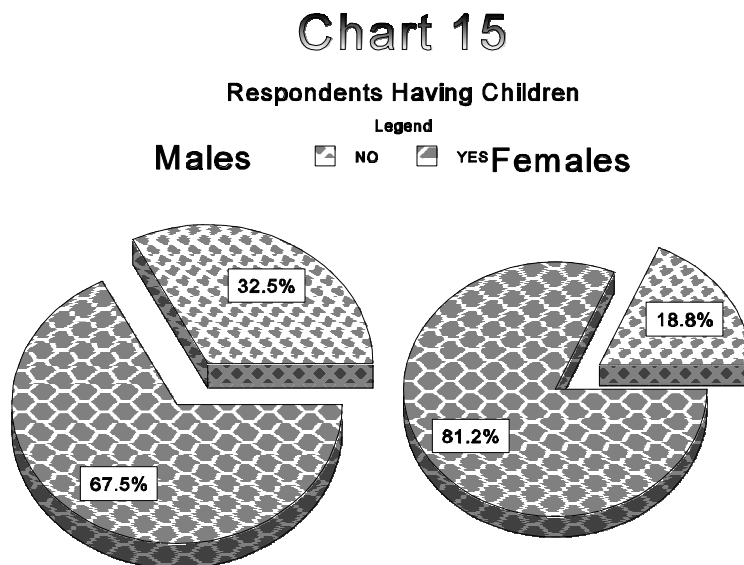
The most notable indications from Table 3 are the higher rates at which female felons indicated that they would be supporting themselves and their families with public assistance, and the slightly lower rates at which female felons indicated they would be supporting themselves and their families with employment.

## SECTION FOUR: THE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED FELONS IN TENNESSEE

### THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED FELONS IN TENNESSEE

The following section of the report deals with the families and children of incarcerated felons in Tennessee. In addressing the issues of children of incarcerated parents, only survey cases with children in Tennessee are considered at this time. Overall, sixty-eight percent (68%) of those felons surveyed indicated that they had children. Chart 15 shows this distribution by gender. The charts below further indicate that a greater percentage of female felons reported having children than male felons.

Senate Joint Resolution 319 specifically asked the Tennessee Department of Correction to estimate the number of children in Tennessee affected by the incarceration of their parent(s). According to the results of this survey, *there is an estimated total of 17,462 individuals (all ages) affected by the incarceration of their parents. An estimated 16,557 of these live in Tennessee. Of these, an estimated 12,616 are under the age of 18.* Table 4 below shows a distribution of these individuals living in Tennessee whose parent(s) are incarcerated in a state prison.



The process used to estimate these numbers was fairly straightforward. On the instrument, offenders were asked to indicate the number of children they had under 18 and those children they had who were over 18 years of age. An additional field was added during data entry which contained the sum of these two numbers. The numbers were extracted from the data, and then divided by the percentage of the population that was surveyed. To determine the number of individuals affected by the incarceration of their parents in Tennessee, offenders were asked to indicate whether their children in specific age brackets lived in Tennessee. Due to the fact that some offenders correctly identified the number in each age category living in Tennessee, and others merely indicated that some or all lived in Tennessee by a check mark, the assumption was made that all of the offender's children in a particular age group lived in Tennessee if such was indicated by either a number or a

check mark. The information presented in the subsequent paragraphs of this section concerns only those felons who responded that they had children and that their children lived in Tennessee.

TABLE 4:  
ESTIMATED NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN TENNESSEE  
AFFECTED BY THE INCARCERATION OF THEIR PARENTS  
BY AGE GROUP

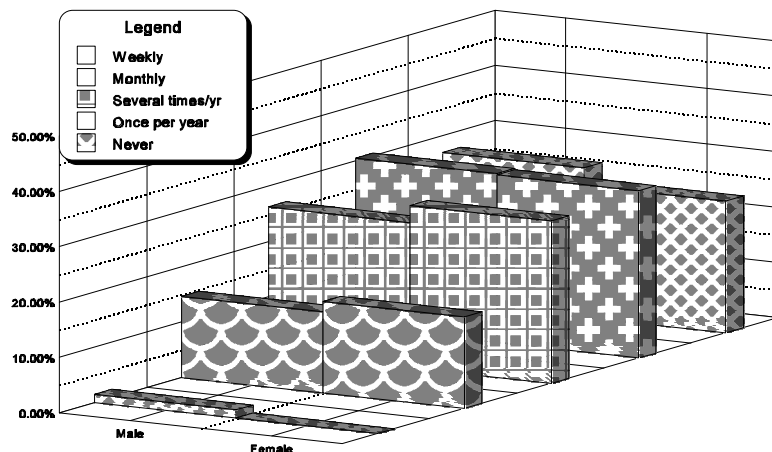
Age Group of Children	Children of Female Felons	Children of Male Felons	Total Children of Felons
Under 1 year	21	615	636
12 to 48 months	70	2,005	2,075
4 to 6 years	77	1,984	2,061
6 to 12 years	178	3,775	3,953
12 to 15 years	73	2,053	2,126
15 to 18 years	70	1,594	1,664
18 and older	245	3,797	4,042
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>734</b>	<b>15,823</b>	<b>16,557</b>

Nearly fifty-four percent (53.65%) of male felons indicated that their children under 18 visited them in prison, while 68.82% of the female felons stated the same. Chart 16 demonstrates the reported frequency of these visits by gender.

In assessing the frequency with which felons were visited by their children under 18 years of age, only those 715 felons who reported having children in Tennessee who visited were considered. Twenty seven percent (27.06%) of male and 23.85% of female felons reported that their children under 18 visited them weekly; 30.53% of male and 30.28% of female felons reported monthly visits; 26.24% of male and 29.36% of female felons reported several visits per year; 14.69% of male and 16.51% of female felons reported once per year; 14.69% of male and 16.51% of female felons reported never.

## Chart 16

Frequency of Visits - Children Under 18

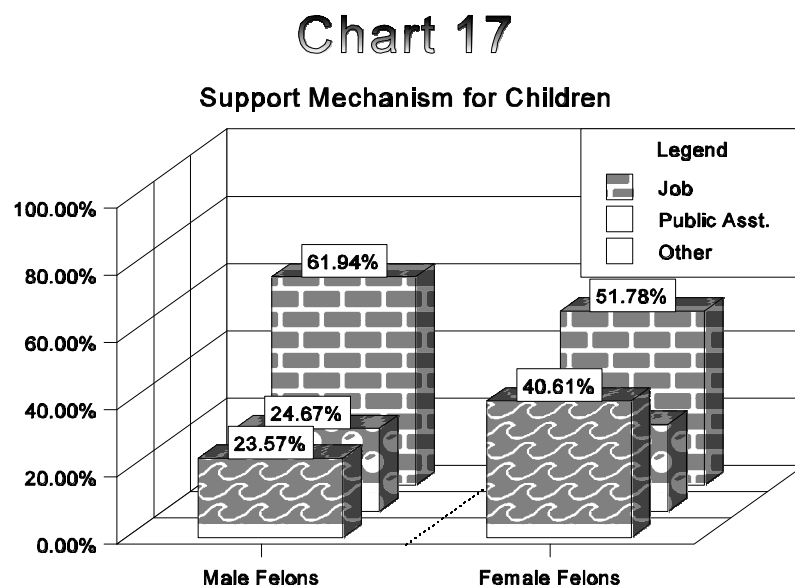


of female felons reported yearly visits; and 1.49% of male and no female felons reported that their children never visited.

These felons were also asked to indicate how they thought their children felt about visiting in prison. Fifty-one percent (51.47%) of male and 67.83% of female felons indicated their children liked to visit. Seventeen percent (17.32%) of male and 10.43% of female felons indicated that their children did not like to visit them in prison, and 31.21% of male and 21.74% of female felons indicated they did not know how their children felt when visiting.

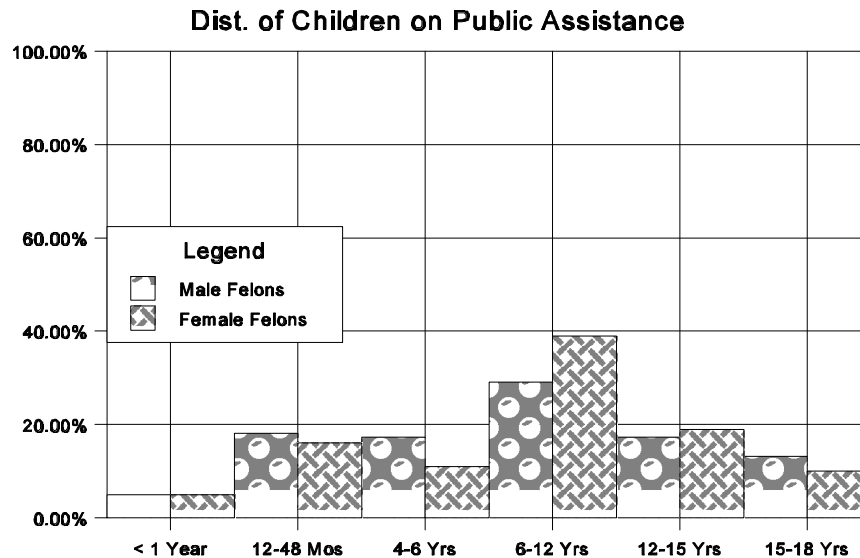
One of the questions asked of felons was how their children and families were being supported while they were in prison. Felons were given three options to choose from: income from employment of the caretaker, public assistance, and other. Felons were asked to check all of the options that applied to their situation. Chart 17 indicates the distribution of responses.

Overall, 61.94% of male and 51.78% of female felons indicated that their children were being supported by either income from the employment of the caretaker or employment of the children. Twenty-five percent of male and 25.89% of female felons indicated that their children were supported by some form of public assistance. Twenty-four percent (23.57%) of male and 40.61% of female felons indicated their children were supported by other means. "Other" generally means that the children were being supported by another member of the family such as the offender's parents.



In an attempt to estimate the number of children under 18 in Tennessee being supported by public assistance while their parent is incarcerated, those felons who stated they had children living in Tennessee and that those children were being supported by public assistance were isolated, and a similar process as described in the paragraphs above was used. *An estimated 3,975 children in Tennessee are being supported by public assistance programs while their parent(s) are incarcerated in a state prison. This represents nearly 32% (31.5%) of the estimated 12,616 children under 18 affected by the incarceration of their parent(s).* The age distribution is shown in Chart 18.

## Chart 18

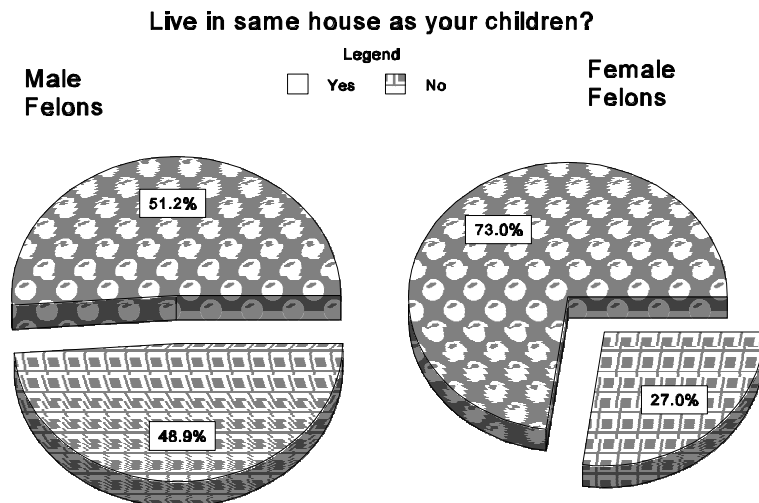


Nearly thirty percent (29.47%) of those children under 18 reportedly being supported by public assistance are in the age group of six years to twelve years of age. An estimated 31.8% of children under 18 were reported as being supported by public assistance in some manner. This percentage was 31.08% for female felons, and 31.8% for male felons. It appears that there is no difference in this rate between male and female felons.

Felons were further asked to indicate whether they were living in the same house as their children just prior to being incarcerated. As shown in Chart 19, 51.2% of male felons reported that they were living in the same house as their children prior to being incarcerated, while 72.96% of female felons reported the same.

Responses varied when felons were asked who their children were living with at the time the survey was answered. Felons were given several options ranging from their partner to other relatives. Thirty-four percent (34.3%) of males responded

## Chart 19



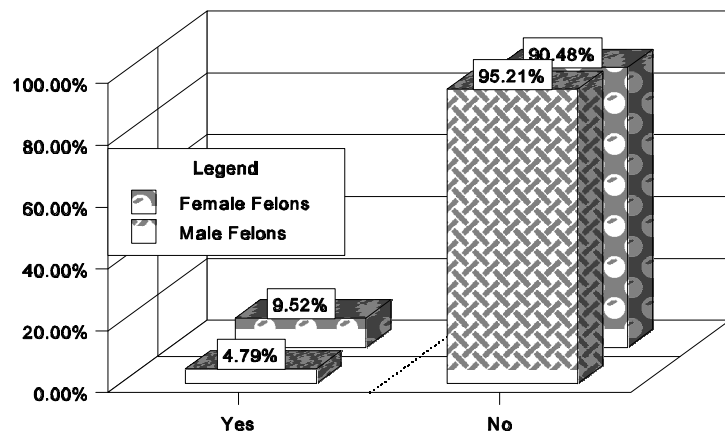


that the children were living with their wife. Six percent (6.09%) of female felons indicated that their children were living with their husbands. Fifteen percent (15.58%) of male felons and 4.57% of female felons indicated that their children were living with their partner. Twelve percent (12.45%) of male felons and 43.15% of female felons reported that their children were currently living with the children's grandparents. Only 2.35% of male felons, while 15.74% of female felons reported that their children were living with their aunt and/or uncle. Interesting to note is the lower rate of children in foster care: 1.64% of male felons and 7.11% of female felons responded that their children were currently living with foster parents. Thirty-five percent (35.32%) of male felons and 32.99% of female felons indicated that their children were living in another situation; this response generally indicated that the children were living with the felon's parents, the felon's sibling, or some other member of the felon's immediate or extended family.

Questions were also asked in an attempt to determine the extent to which intergenerational trouble with the law exists in Tennessee. Five percent (4.79%) of male felons and 9.52% of female felons responded that at least one of their children under the age of 18 years had been in trouble with the law. Four percent (4.12%) of male felons and 7.02% of female felons reported that at least one of their children under 18 had been in a juvenile detention facility or juvenile center. The Department of Youth Development (DYD) was contacted to give some breadth to these numbers. For the first seven months of Fiscal Year 1994-95, DYD averaged a total of 99 students in their system who had at least one parent currently incarcerated in a Tennessee prison.

## Chart 20

### Children in Trouble with the Law



**Felons who reported children in Tennessee and who reported that this was not their first time in prison were included in the analysis in this paragraph.** One-half (51.2%) of these male felons and 29.17% of female felons reported that they themselves had been in trouble with the law before they were 18 years of age. Additionally, 38.75% of these male felons and 26.53% of female felons reported that they had been in a juvenile facility of some sort prior to their 18th birthday. For these same felons, 11.86% of male felons and 30.77% of female felons reported at least one of their children had been held back in school. Finally, 5.97% of male felons and 7.5% of female felons indicated that at least one of their children had been in a juvenile facility of some sort.

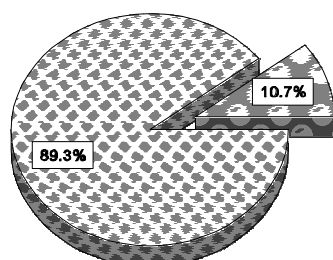
## Chart 21

### Children Held Back in School

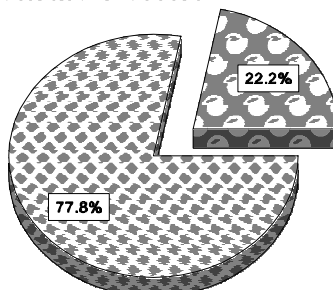
Legend

☐ Yes ☐ No

#### Male Felons



#### Female Felons



Eleven percent (10.66%) of male felons and 22.22% of female felons with children in Tennessee reported that at least one of their children under the age of 18 had been held back in school. That response is indicated in Chart 21.

Felons were also asked to report how they thought their children under 18 were doing in school overall. Those responses are shown in the table below.

TABLE 5:  
FELONS' INDICATION OF CHILDREN'S SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

RESPONSE	MALE FELONS	FEMALE FELONS	TOTAL
Fine, no problems	51.16%	53.02%	51.39%
Average	29.44%	36.91%	30.38%
Poorly	2.80%	2.68%	2.78%
Dropped Out	1.16%	2.01%	1.27%
I don't know	15.44%	5.37%	14.18%

Finally, felons were asked to indicate to the best of their knowledge how they believed their children felt about their parent being incarcerated, and how their children's feelings were reflected in action. Respondents were allowed to check more than one answer to indicate a range of feeling. Forty-four percent (44.87%) of male felons and 65.48% of female felons reported that their children felt angry about their parents being incarcerated.

When asked how far their children and families lived from the institution in which they were currently incarcerated female felons reported a greater distance. Female felons reported an average of 218.4



miles while males felons reported an average of 176.96 miles, with no significant difference in the

reported distances. These reported distances

are in concert with the visits by children male and female felons reported. More specifically, frequency

of visits appear to be related to distance. In order to determine if any differences existed between male and female felons and the distance they were from their families, a t-test was conducted on

the miles from family reported by felons and the area in which they resided just prior to their incarceration.

While no significant differences existed overall, some differences emerged based upon the region felons were living in at the time of incarceration. For those felons who had lived in East Tennessee prior to their incarceration, female felons (n=25) averaged a reported 335.12 miles and male felons (n=258) averaged a reported 150.09 miles, significant at the .05 level. There was no significant difference in distance reported by felons who had resided in Middle Tennessee. There were also differences at the West Tennessee level. Female felons (n=37) averaged a reported 381.49 miles, and male felons (n=348) averaged a reported 162.67 miles from their families, with the difference significant at the .05 level.

These results are not surprising. While some of the difference may be due to small female felon sample size, the results also indicate significance as a function of facility placement in Tennessee. The only female facility operated by the Tennessee Department of Correction is located in Nashville, while facilities for male felons are located across the state.

## SECTION FIVE: PRISON VISITATION AND FAMILY PROGRAMS IN OTHER STATES

Senate Joint Resolution 319 asked that the Department of Correction "conduct research on national visitation and family programs in order to formulate suggested correctional family programs for Tennessee." To that end, the department's Planning and Research section contacted each state directly, providing them with a copy of the resolution and asking for specific research or programmatic information concerning visitation and family programs. This section covers the highlights of information received from each state.

**ALABAMA.** There are no current operative family programs. Visitation is considered a privilege and as such is governed by departmental policy. Inmates are limited to 8 visitors on list, including immediate family. Institution head can limit the number of visitors based on security or other reasons, and can deny visits for same reasons. A specific list of reasons is provided in the policy with incident reporting requirements. Ex-felons can visit under certain conditions. Policy requires a visiting schedule, supervision of visits and children who are present, search procedures for visitors, and establishment of a visitation area and behavior standards in each area. There is the flexibility of allowing "other visitors," but that is at the institutional head's discretion.

**ARIZONA.** Arizona has developed a Family Assistance Office which provides a wide range of referral services for incarcerated individuals and their families (several pamphlets citing particular services are on file with the department). The Arizona State Prison Complex/Phoenix-Center for Women has developed a program called Mother/Offspring Life Development. This program is designed to teach offenders parenting and bonding skills. Visits with children are allowed, and participants must meet specific requirements and apply for this program. Attendance is mandatory. There is a separate institutional policy for this program which is not part of the state-wide visitation policy. Inmates are allowed to call other incarcerated inmates during family emergencies and certain holiday periods. Arizona further allows minors and young children to visit with an adult, provided the incarcerated parent has not lost parental rights. Policy addresses attorney visits, non-contact/contact visits, contraband discovery, approval of visitors, denial or removal from approved list, hospitalized visits, restrictions, searches, special visits, visitor id's, Law Enforcement Agency visitors, visitation conduct, reinstatement of visitation privileges, suspension of visits, and dress code of visitors.

**ARKANSAS.** No research provided. Departmental policy addresses the same fundamentals as all other state-wide policies. Arkansas provided a handbook entitled "How the Family and/or Friends Can Help."

**CALIFORNIA.** California's policy addresses the same issues as other states, but it also includes audio and video recording of inmate interviews; searches of minor visitors; metal detectors with regard to medical implants not clearing the detector; visitation with more than one inmate; visiting in community hospitals; refusal to see a visitor. California also has a program called Friends Outside which is in Monterey County. It works with ex-offenders and their families throughout the different stages of a family members' incarceration. Pamphlet is on file.

**CONNECTICUT.** Connecticut provides seemingly very diverse programs. The submitted Appendix A provides their standard state-wide visitation policy. This policy addresses many of the same standard subjects as the above states. Many institutions have recently developed and are testing a program which provides the chance for incarcerated parents and their children to spend time together reading children's literature. Two institutions have visitation programs that are operated by a private company. Families in Crisis, a private Connecticut based company which provides support services for families of offenders, runs a Sesame Street program in two facilities, one male medium security facility and one female facility. This program is designed to provide children with an alternative to regular visitation, afford adults private time to communicate, and reduce congestion in the visiting rooms. In FY 1992-1993, over 1500 children participated in the program and 44 community and inmate volunteers donated hours of their time providing reception, escort and child care services. Program guidelines are provided in Appendix B of Connecticut's packet. Some facilities have developed overnight visitation of the immediate family or an extended family visiting program. Other facilities are in the developmental phase of these programs. Procedures for the conjugal and extended programs are also enclosed in Appendices C and D respectively. There is a Voices and Faces Program under the Recreation Department at some facilities. This program uses donated books and video tapes purchased by the inmate to create a video of the inmate reading to the child and the child can take the tape home. The Creative Arts Parenting Program in partnership with a private firm does workshops for incarcerated mothers and all-day family outings. The goal is to provide inmate mothers with the opportunity to develop and maintain a positive relationship with their children during incarceration; see Appendix E. Appendix F provides curriculum description of a general counseling and education framework. Appendix G provides a description of substance abuse treatment curriculum. Appendix H addresses family issues in the context of relapse intervention.

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS.** The district provides no special programs, but does provide a policy that addresses an inmate's visitation list and its approval process; visitor entry to the institution and visiting schedules; searches; special visits and contact visits; number of visitors and frequency of visits; suspensions and terminations; visiting areas; visitor appeal procedures and a table of penalties for visitation violations.

**FLORIDA.** Florida provides no family programming except a Girl Scout Program at one female institution which will be expanded to other institutions. If the state can procure grants or other funds, it will implement other family programs. No research has been conducted on inmates and their families. However, money has never been appropriated to conduct such studies and programs. They enclosed their basic visitation policy which addresses posting of visiting policies, visiting records, inmates in special status, refusal of visit by inmate, visitor list, visiting procedures and conditions, searches, attorney visits, special visits, legal visitors, approval and termination of visitors, tour visits, news media visitors, and official visitors.

**GEORGIA.** Georgia's visitation policy addresses visitation areas, schedules, authorized visitors, visitor list changes, loss of visitation privilege, visitor identification, attorney visits, other visits and tours, searches, special visits, reporting for visits, visitor procedures, supervision, conduct and responsibility of inmates and visitors, dress code, visitor vehicles, and disturbances. They have done no research in this area. There is only one special program called Project Reach. This program provides opportunities for inmate mothers to spend time with their visiting children in a programmed, activity-oriented environment. There are five primary components of this program: specialized parenting and child development classes; family visitation program; a committed spouse and partner program; and a resource office.

**IDAHO.** Idaho has not conducted any research, and no family programs are available. However, their one female institution places emphasis on parenting programs and provides a special parent/child visiting suite to reward successful program completion. Standard policy addresses the visitor list and its approval, attorney and clergy visit, tours, dress code, and supervision of visits. Each institution has a field memorandum that describes visitation times and rules of conduct.

**ILLINOIS.** Standard policy addresses visitor list and its approval, visitation of minors, clergy and attorney visits, restrictions of visitors and visit terminations, contraband discovery, and restoration of privileges. The Dwight Correctional Center has a Family Services Department which conducts parenting classes, general counseling, and legal services to incarcerated pregnant inmates and mothers. This department also receives services from outside agencies through which they can provide further services to these female inmates. The only research available is what they have read through other sources that recognize the female inmate population is increasing and the effect that incarceration has on their children. They recognize this is a critical problem and they are trying to improve what they have.

**INDIANA.** Former offenders can be considered for visitation only after parole or probation supervision has ceased for one year. They do body searches but don't specify if it is a cavity search; they do strip searches.

**IOWA.** Standard policy addresses visitor list and approval, those excluded from visiting, visitor id, security of prison during visitation, denial and termination of visitors, visitation hours, etc. They list programs provided as being: education programs, mothers' support group, special visiting activities and extended visits for children, minor children eating with mothers in visiting room, family preservation program, batterers groups, individual family counseling on an as needed basis, marriage relations, weekly family counseling for inmates in parole/work release violator program, family seminars offered through prison fellowship volunteers. No descriptions were provided on these programs.

**KENTUCKY.** Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women allows inmates overnight visitation with children as well as special visitation for parent-child bonding which takes place in the regular visitation area but at times other than during regular visitation areas. Blackburn Correctional Complex, a minimum security institution, has a special family program which involves parent education. Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex, a medium custody institution, allows for spousal visitation by providing volunteers on Saturdays to sit with the children of inmates. They have done no research. Their policy addresses inside/outside visiting areas, schedule, frequency and number of visitors, allowable visitors, business visitors, special visitors, excluded visitors, visitor id, segregated inmates and visitation, visitation behavior, general visiting procedures and dress code and penalty for visitation violations.

**KANSAS.** Kansas provides one program through a contract provider, Visitors Hospitality Centers, at 4 of their larger facilities. These centers assist inmate families during visitation by providing such services as child care, clothing exchange, and overnight lodging. The program is funded by use of the inmate benefit fund. Another program is the Women's Activities and Learning Center visitation program, which helps maintain and strengthen the relationship between the mother and child during the mother's incarceration. It provides a quiet, home-like visiting area, and parenting programs. This program is coordinated by a staff position; however, the program is supported primarily by volunteers and donations. Standard policy addresses visitation list and approval, verification and re-verification of the lists (allowing for a maximum number of 10 on the list at a given time), visiting documentation, visiting areas and hours and length of visits, special visits, termination and suspension of visits, visitor id and searches. Statute covers other basic areas as listed in other states' policies.

**LOUISIANA.** Louisiana's one female institution has 4 family-oriented programs: a pre/post natal program, parental nurturing, Program for Caring Parents, and a Children's Day celebration. One of the male prisons has also added a parenting skills program. Standard policy addresses the number of individuals allowed to visit, background check on visitors, restrictions on visiting, visitor identifications, visitor list approval/disapproval, changes to the visitor list, frequency and duration of visits, dress code, suspension of visiting privileges, special visits, attorney visits, and searches.

**MAINE.** Standard policy addresses visitor approval and background checks, frequency and number of visits and visitors, special visits, posting of visiting regulations, non-contact visiting, former inmates visiting, suspension of visits, denied or terminated visits.

**MARYLAND.** Standard policy allows for regular visitation by specific days and number of visitors; some institutions have latitude to allow for special visits. At over-crowded institutions, they adhere to the general visiting policy. Some wardens use special visitation procedures for family oriented events such as Family Day. Policy also addresses visiting schedules, duration, registration; searches; property of visitors; behavior during visitation; denial, termination, and suspension of visits; special housing inmates; restricted visits; visiting of ex-offenders; attorney and clergy visits; special visits; and use of force on visitors. Three institutions have extended visitation programs.

**MASSACHUSETTS.** Massachusetts provides a program in one unit called Hodder House that allows incarcerated women to be with their infants around the time of delivery and for a short time following the birth. One of the pre-release facilities has a "trailer program" that allows for overnight visits between mothers and their children in a trailer that has been placed on the grounds for that purpose. At the female prison there are several volunteer groups that work with mothers who have issues around child care as many women without stable family support lose their children permanently as a result of their incarceration. No departmental policy was submitted. They submitted the results of a very brief survey they conducted in 1992 relative to any "boarding-in" programs nationwide. Sixty-two percent (62%) of the responding states had no programs, 25% had existing programs, and 15% had programs in the planning phase. Results of the survey indicate that the following services are most commonly mentioned as being important to improve the ability of each woman to care for her child and herself: child development. classes; parenting skills; family outreach; counseling; substance abuse counseling and education; independent living skills; job readiness skills; vocational/educational training; health/nutrition education; employment placement assistance; discharge referrals; medical assistance referrals; self-esteem enhancement activities; and foster care counseling.

**MICHIGAN.** Standard policy addresses visiting schedules; attorney and clergy visits; visitor restrictions and hearings; allowable visitors; minor visitors and emancipation; visitor conduct; dress code; termination and disallowed visits; searches; medical visits; probationer or parolee visits; restricted visitor list; and non-contact visiting.

**MINNESOTA.** State-wide policy and individual local policies address standard components of visitation policies from other states. A variety of family-related programs are being conducted at various institutions. One program provides weekly family nights for those involved in chemical dependency counseling. There is Me and My Family children's programming; inmate/child parenting classes; For Kids Only which is a children's structured play group separate from parents so that the inmate may spend time with the other parent; and the Fathered program. During holidays, Angel Trees and Salvation Army provide gifts for children of inmates. There is an Effective Fathering Program at the Red Wing Facility which is grant funded by the University of Minnesota. This program addresses many issues surrounding the male care-giver.

**MISSOURI.** Missouri indicated that they have conducted no research. Standard policy addresses same and similar components of other state policies. They have a PATCH (Parents and Their Children) visitation program which assists incarcerated female inmates in maintaining and strengthening family relationships between mother and child.

**NEBRASKA.** The only family related programs in the state are at the Nebraska Center for Women which houses the majority of their female offenders. The program is called MOLD (Mother Offspring Life Development) which allows eligible inmate mothers day-long visits with infant children and periodic overnight visits for other children at the facility. This institution is also in the final stages of development of a Nursery Program, which would allow eligible pregnant inmates to keep their newborn child in the facility's nursery for a specified period of time dependent on expected release or parole dates. No research was submitted. Standard policy addresses posting of visiting regulations; visiting records, lists, procedures, dress code, applications; number of visitors and visiting areas/space; age requirements; physical contact; criminal records; special and emergency visits; extended and segregation visits; visitor deletions, responsibility conduct, and behavior; restriction, suspension, and termination of visits; and visitor items and property.

**NEW HAMPSHIRE.** New Hampshire indicated no research has been conducted. The women's facility works with the YWCA to provide a parenting and visitation program. State-wide policy addresses number of visitors allowed on the list and who is excluded from that quota; approval of visitor list; schedules; segregated inmate visitors; hospital visits; visitor lists and identifications; eligibility to have visits; visitor documentation and supervision; bonus and special visits; attorney and clergy visits; media visits; conduct during visits; security and searches; contraband; and suspension, termination and reinstatement of visitors.

**NEW JERSEY.** No research conducted. Policy basically addresses same issues as other states. No programs were indicated.

**NEW MEXICO.** No programs or research indicated. Policy basically has same issues as other states.

**NEW YORK.** No research conducted. The Family Reunion Program was developed to preserve, enhance and strengthen relationships between inmates and their families. Selected inmates and their immediate family can meet for overnight visiting in a private, home-like (mobile home) setting in a specially designed area on the grounds of 11 facilities in New York. They have a policy that addresses the conditions and requirements of this reunion program. State-wide visitation policy addresses basic issues as in other states.

**NORTH CAROLINA.** North Carolina provides a handbook for family and friends of North Carolina prisoners, very similar to Tennessee's inmate handbook. State-wide visitation policy addresses the same issues as other states. North Carolina has a contract with the Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas, providing many family oriented services for the incarcerated and their families.

**NORTH DAKOTA.** No research or family programs documented. They use various outside resource volunteers for religious programs. State-wide visitation policy addresses basic issues as in other states.



**OHIO.** No research provided. Several facilities have extensive parenting programs and they are in the process of implementing more training for parenting skills at all institutions. Departmental staff suggest that any interested parties view the program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women as it incorporates visits between mothers and children in a home-like setting. No specifics regarding this program were provided. They have a visiting manual which incorporates policies and regulations. This manual is quite voluminous but it basically addresses all the issues of other states' policies.

**OKLAHOMA.** No research provided. CAMP (Children and Mothers' Program) at the Mabel Bassett Correctional Center in Oklahoma City allows incarcerated mothers to spend more quality time with children in a warm, child-centered setting inside the institution. Another program is FACT (Fathers and Children Together) at the Joseph Harp Correctional Center in Lexington. This program allows fathers to become emotionally involved with their children. Parenting education materials and classes are conducted. Another program is the New Directions program at the Dr. Eddie Warrior Correctional Center in Taft. It is a formalized parenting program addressing self esteem, discipline, child's physical and mental development, and community resources. The last program is the Parenting program at the Kate Barnard Community Correction Center. It allows female offenders to undergo 6 weeks of classroom education regarding parenting skills. This state agency also has a Moral Reconciliation Therapy Program which incorporates good decision making skills. State-wide visitation policy addresses components of other states' policies.

**OREGON.** Oregon provides a visitor handbook which addresses getting on the visitation list, money, clothing, visiting room, visit monitoring, point system which is essentially a monthly visitation quota system, and visiting schedules at each institution. State-wide policy addresses the same basic components as other states.

**PENNSYLVANIA.** Pennsylvania has two programs in the developmental stage. One is the Enhanced Family Visiting Program which will allow visitors to bring food items to the institution in order to promote a family picnic-like atmosphere. The second program is the Mother Infant Development Area, which is planned for the minimum security institution which houses women and at the community correction centers for women. The goal of this program is to promote bonding by allowing mother and child to live together in a specialized unit. State-wide policy addresses basic components.

**RHODE ISLAND.** Rhode Island provided no research or programs. State-wide policy addresses same or similar components of other state policies.

**SOUTH CAROLINA.** South Carolina provided no research or programs. State-wide policy on visitation and incarcerated family member visits address standard components of other states.

**SOUTH DAKOTA.** No research provided. The policy submitted from the South Dakota State Penitentiary is representative of visitation at all of this state's institutions and addresses the standard issues of all other state policies. The policy from the Springfield Correctional Facility addresses a program called PACT (Parents and Children Together). This affords incarcerated mothers the opportunity for extended visits with their children in addition to regular visitation. The policy from the same institution addresses the Mother-Infant Program. This allows for incarcerated mothers who give birth while in prison to keep the infant with her for a specified period of time (30 days).

**TENNESSEE.** Policy addresses visitor handbook; visitation areas; local policy requirements for medium custody or higher for non-contact visitation; approval and listing process for inmate visitors, which includes children, contract and TDOC employees, past criminal records, clergy, attorneys, and others; visitation schedule, including that for segregated inmates; security issues relative to visitation; denial, termination and suspension of visits; inmate visitors while inmate is at outside

hospital or institutional clinic; property of visitors. Our search policy further addresses searches of visitors. This information is set out in the inmate handbook.

**VIRGINIA.** No research conducted or provided. State-wide policy addresses same or similar components of other state policies. One program is the Family Day program for inmates housed in general population. This program appears to be similar to a picnic or all-day outing. Another program is the MILK Program (Mothers/Men Inside Loving Kids). This allows incarcerated offenders to build and strengthen relationships with their children. The Family Ethics Program is designed to help men stop battering. The REACH program addresses parenting skills and focuses on the abused. The PACE program gives participants a chance to evaluate and learn new methods to deal with their children. The Adult Children of Dysfunctional Family Systems Program is a psycho-educational program and implemented to provide a treatment program for these individuals. The Child Entertainment Center is designed to improve communications between inmates and their visitors by providing a safe, supervised area for the children. Virginia also utilizes volunteers for visitor transportation.

**WEST VIRGINIA.** West Virginia provided no research. West Virginia submitted a policy from two of its institutions. These two policies address standard components of other states' policies. Individual responding to the survey made reference to standard visitation but no policy was provided.

**WISCONSIN.** Wisconsin provided no research. The state contracts with a vendor to provide transportation for inmate families from the Milwaukee area. State policy is basic and similar to all other states. At the Taycheedah Correctional Institution there are programs for the female offender addressing parenting and a local policy from that facility was provided. At the Kettle Moraine Correctional Institute there is a parenting group.

## SECTION SIX: CONCLUSIONS

No one will argue that a person who commits a felony should not be incarcerated for his or her action in accordance with the law. However, it is apparent from the information presented in this report that the families and children of incarcerated felons have particular needs, and are often adversely affected by this incarceration. The problems facing these individuals cannot be adequately handled or resolved by a few individuals or a single government agency acting alone.

This report presents a demographic overview of Tennessee's incarcerated felon population and their families. As such, this report does not presume to offer definitive answers to such a public policy issue. However, the Tennessee Department of Correction can encourage additional research from internal and external sources to assist in more clearly defining the problem as it exists. Potential avenues for future research include, but are not limited to, the following:

- ❑ Further research into the social costs of incarceration. Primarily, rather than attempt to "cost out" crime based upon monetary damages to property and lives, research should also include a focus on costs associated with public programs. For example, this report estimates nearly 4,000 children under the age of 18 whose parents are incarcerated and who are being supported by public assistance while the parent is absent.
- ❑ Further research into the "social safety net" that is designed to offer services to the children and families of incarcerated felons.
- ❑ Further research into the existing programs in Tennessee that are designed to help troubled children. As pointed out, the children of incarcerated felons are often prone to "acting out" or "acting in" behaviors. These behaviors are often related to problems in school, which the incarcerated felons also reported in this study.
- ❑ Identification of gaps in services to the children and families of incarcerated felons.
- ❑ Inclusion of the children of incarcerated felons in the current consideration of consolidated, comprehensive programming for children in the State of Tennessee. Given that incarcerated felons report a noticeable rate of their children being in trouble with the law, and given that the Tennessee Department of Youth Development reports a current average of 100 children per month in their custody who have at least one parent incarcerated with the Department of Correction, this issue is one to be strongly considered.
- ❑ Further research into the differing services required by the care givers of children of incarcerated felons. These differences are such as those touched upon in this research, e.g., those differences based on gender, familial situation, and age of the care giver.
- ❑ Further research into the intergenerational perpetuation of involvement in illegal activity. For example, female felons report a higher instance of their children being in trouble with the law, a higher instance of one of their parents or guardians being incarcerated, and a higher instance of being involved in drugs or crime to support themselves and their families prior to being incarcerated.

- ❑ Further research into time spent in prison and the potential impact on the dissolution of the incarcerated felon's family.
- ❑ Further research into the extent to which consistent family contact and context impact the rate of recidivism for incarcerated felons. Little research was uncovered in the conduction of this report which directly relates to the impact such contact has on the probability of an offender returning to state custody.

Again, this study only begins to touch the surface of the issue of the impact of incarceration on the children and families of incarcerated individuals. It would be premature for this report to establish any strong policy recommendations outside of the preceding paragraphs. However, this report does support earlier conclusions, and further research is strongly recommended. The Tennessee Department of Correction remains committed to encouraging and supporting such research.

**APPENDIX A:**  
**SURVEY INSTRUMENT**



# TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION SURVEY OF DEMOGRAPHICS OF INMATE FAMILIES AND CHILDREN



Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

County of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

State of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
(at time of incarceration)

State of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
(at time of incarceration)

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Custody Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Race: ☐ Caucasian ☐ African American ☐ Hispanic ☐ Asian American  
☐ American Indian ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT CAN THE DEPARTMENT DO TO MAKE VISITATION BETTER FOR YOUR FAMILY?

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## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TIME IN PRISON

- What is the most serious charge you are currently serving time for?  
☐ Crime against a person (murder, assault, armed robbery, etc.)  
☐ Sex offense  
☐ Drug offense  
☐ Property crime (theft, burglary, fraud, etc.)
- How many charges are you serving time for? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the total length of the sentence you received for your current charge(s)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years
- How long have you actually been in prison for your current charges?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years
- Is this the first time that you have been in prison?  
☐ YES ☐ NO  
If NO, at what age were you first sent to prison? \_\_\_\_\_
- Were you in trouble with the law before you were 18 years old?  
☐ YES ☐ NO
- Were you ever in a juvenile institution (detention center, youth center, youth development center, etc) before your 18th birthday?  
☐ YES ☐ NO

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LIVING SITUATION

8. Which of the following best describes the relationship you had with another person JUST BEFORE YOU WERE INCARCERATED with the Tennessee Department of Correction? [CHOOSE ONE]

☐ Married                      ☐ Living with Partner                      ☐ Divorced  
☐ Legally Separated                      ☐ Widowed                      ☐ Single

9. If you indicated a relationship other than single in question #8, how long have you been/were you involved in the relationship?

\_\_\_\_\_ years                      \_\_\_\_\_ months

10. Do you consider yourself to be still involved in the relationship you mentioned in question #8?

☐ YES                      ☐ NO

11. Do you believe you will continue in that relationship once you are released from prison?

☐ YES                      ☐ NO

12. If you are currently married, were you married prior to coming to prison, or were you married since you've been in prison?

☐ Married before coming to prison                      ☐ Married while in prison

13. If you are currently married, is this marriage your first marriage?

☐ YES                      ☐ NO

If NO, how many times have you been married, including your current marriage?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. How old were you when you were first married? \_\_\_\_\_ years old

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

15. Are you an adopted child? ☐ YES ☐ NO
16. Were you ever placed in foster care as a child? ☐ YES ☐ NO  
(FOSTER CARE refers to being placed with a family who was not part of your immediate or your extended family. Do not count grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc.)
17. To the best of your knowledge, which of the following best describes your parents' relationship while you were growing up? [CHOOSE ONLY ONE]  
☐ Married ☐ Living as Partners ☐ Divorced ☐ Legally Separated ☐ Unknown
18. Of those who raised you, who did you live with the longest?  
☐ Parents  
☐ Adoptive parents  
☐ Grandparent(s)  
☐ Aunt  
☐ Uncle  
☐ Aunt and Uncle together  
☐ Brother or sister  
☐ Foster Parents  
☐ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_
19. Please choose from those listed below the best description of the reason you were raised by someone other than your parents: [CHOOSE ONE]  
☐ Death of a parent  
☐ Parent sent to prison  
☐ Abandoned  
☐ Placed in foster care  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_
20. Thinking of all your family members, and not just the person(s) who raised you, who else lived in the same house as you while you were growing up? [PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO THE HOUSE YOU GREW UP IN]  
☐ Grandparent(s)  
☐ Aunt  
☐ Uncle  
☐ Aunt and Uncle together  
☐ Brother(s) or sister(s)  
☐ Other (describe): \_\_\_\_\_
21. Were either of your parents or guardians sent to prison while you were growing up?  
☐ YES ☐ NO



22. If YES to the previous question, which parent(s) or guardian(s) was sent to prison and why?

☐ Father      ☐ Mother      ☐ Female Guardian      ☐ Male Guardian

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Was this a person who raised you?      ☐ YES      ☐ NO

23. Were you born and raised in Tennessee?

☐ YES      ☐ NO

If YES, in which region of the state were you born and raised?

☐ EAST Tennessee      ☐ MIDDLE Tennessee      ☐ WEST Tennessee

If NO, where were you born and raised? \_\_\_\_\_



24. Please list the relationship(s) to you of those people who were living with you JUST BEFORE YOU WERE INCARCERATED with the Tennessee Department of Correction (for example: wife, children, mother, cousin, etc.)

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25. How many miles from your family's home is the prison you are in? (If you do not know, please give an estimated number of miles)

\_\_\_\_\_ miles

26. Please list those family members who actually visit you in prison (for example: mother, father, wife, husband, children, etc.):

Person	Frequency of visit (Weekly, Monthly, Several times/yr, once/yr, or never?)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

27. How long has it been since you have been visited by a member of your family?

---

**28. If your family does not visit, what is the reason?**

---

---

**29. When you are released from prison, where do you plan to live?**

☐ In Tennessee

☐ Out of Tennessee

**30. How did you support yourself/family before being incarcerated?**

☐ Job

☐ Public Assistance

☐ Drugs/Crime

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**31. Once you are released from prisons, how will you support yourself/family?**

☐ Job

☐ Public Assistance

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILDREN

32. Do you have any children? (Please include adopted children and stepchildren).

☐

YES

☐

NO

IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ANY CHILDREN, YOU MAY SKIP THE REST OF THE SURVEY

33. How many children do you have? (Please include adopted and stepchildren)

\_\_\_\_ Total number of children under 18 years    \_\_\_\_ Total number of children over 18 years

Of your children under 18 years, how many are:

\_\_\_\_ From current relationship

\_\_\_\_ From previous relationship(s)

Of your children under 18 years, how many are adopted by you?    \_\_\_\_

34. Of the children you reported above, please write in the number who are in each age group below. How many in each age group live in Tennessee?

\_\_\_\_ Less than 1 year (less than 12 months old)

Live in TN?

\_\_\_\_ 12 months to 48 months (1 year up to 4 years old)

\_\_\_\_ 4 years up to 6 years old (Pre-school age)

\_\_\_\_ 6 years up to 12 years old (Elementary school age)

\_\_\_\_ 12 years up to 15 years old (Junior High School age)

\_\_\_\_ 15 years up to 18 years old (High School age)

\_\_\_\_ 18 and older (adult)

\_\_\_\_

35. Do any of your children under 18 years visit you in prison?

☐

YES

☐

NO

If YES, how often?

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Several times/year

☐ Once/year

☐ Never

36. How do your children feel about visiting you in prison?

☐ They like to visit

☐ They do not like to visit

☐ I don't know how they feel

37. How are your children/family being supported while you are incarcerated? (Check all that apply)

☐

Job

☐

Public Assistance

☐

Other

\_\_\_\_\_

38. Were you living in the same house as your children just before you were incarcerated?

☐

YES

☐

NO

**39. Who are your children currently living with?**

- ☐ My Wife
- ☐ My Husband
- ☐ My Partner
- ☐ Children's Grandparent(s)
- ☐ Children's Aunt and/or Uncle
- ☐ Children's Foster Parents
- ☐ Don't Know
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**40. Have any of your children who are now under 18 years ever been in trouble with the law?**

- ☐ YES      If YES, how many of your children? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NO

**41. Have any of your children who are now under 18 years ever been held back in school?**

- ☐ YES      If YES, how many of your children? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NO

**42. Have any of your children who are now under 18 ever been in foster care?**

- ☐ YES      If YES, how many of your children? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NO

**43. Have any of your children who are now under 18 ever been in a juvenile detention facility or juvenile center?**

- ☐ YES      If YES, how many of your children? \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ NO

**44. To the best of your knowledge, how are your children under 18 doing in school over all? [CHOOSE ONE]**

- ☐ Fine, no problems
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Poorly
- ☐ Dropped out
- ☐ I don't know

**45. To the best of your knowledge, how do your children feel about your being in prison?**


- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sad          | <input type="checkbox"/> Fearful or scared |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angry        | <input type="checkbox"/> Relieved          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guilty       | <input type="checkbox"/> Confused          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lonely       | <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know |  |

**46. To the best of your knowledge, how have your children's actions reflected the feelings you chose above?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawing              | <input type="checkbox"/> Excelling, trying to be a perfect child |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Being "tough" physically | <input type="checkbox"/> Being "tough" emotionally               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problems in school       | <input type="checkbox"/> "Bucking" authority                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trouble with the law     | <input type="checkbox"/> I don't know                            |

**APPENDIX B:**

**TDOC POLICY #507.01  
VISITATION**


 <b>ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b> State of Tennessee Department of Correction	Index #: 507.01	Page 1 of 1
	Effective Date: May 1, 1995	
	Distribution: B	
	Supersedes: N/A	
Approved by: <i>Donal Campbell</i>		
Subject: VISITATION		

**POLICY CHANGE NOTICE** 95-192

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please add the following to Section VI.(B)(5)(o):

- "o. The institutional warden, through local policy, may impose a waiting period not to exceed six (6) months to review the application of visitors who have been removed from an offender's approved visitation list, either by personal or inmate request, before placing them on the requested offender's list."

 <b>ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b> State of Tennessee Department of Correction	Index # 507.01	Page 1 of 1
	Effective Date: March 15, 1995	
	Distribution: B	
	Supersedes: N/A	
Approved by: <i>Donald Campbell</i>		
Subject: VISITATION		


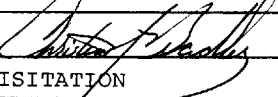
POLICY CHANGE NOTICE 95-122

INSTRUCTIONS:

In Section III., add "Assistant Commissioner of Operations."

In Section VI.(A)(3), change to read: "This policy will be submitted to the Assistant Commissioner of Operations for approval."

In Section VI.(B)(5)(j), substitute "Assistant Commissioner of Operations" for "regional administrator."

 <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State of Tennessee Department of Correction</p>	Index # 507.01	Page 1 of 10
	Effective Date: January 15, 1995	
	Distribution: B	
	Supersedes: 507.01 (3/15/94)	
Approved by: 		
Subject: VISITATION		

- I. **AUTHORITY:** T.C.A. 4-3-603, T.C.A. 4-3-606, T.C.A. 39-16-201.
- II. **PURPOSE:** To establish departmental guidelines governing the visiting of inmates.
- III. **APPLICATION:** To institutional employees and inmates, excluding inmates housed at the Wayne County Boot Camp that are involved in the S.A.I.U. unit.
- IV. **DEFINITIONS:**
  - A. **Immediate Family:** Mother, father, husband, wife, children, grandchildren, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather, half-siblings, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law. Step parents in loco parentis may be considered within this definition when it has been verified that the inmate was reared by this individual as a result of death, divorce, desertion or other absences of a parent.
  - B. **Official Visitor:** Employees of the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC), other governmental agencies, or private sector who are conducting business at the institution.
  - C. **Contraband:** Any item which is not permitted by law or is expressly prohibited by TDOC or institutional policy.
  - D. **Child:** Anyone under the age of eighteen (18) years.
  - E. **Legal Guardian:** A person appointed by the court to provide partial or full supervision, protection and assistance of the person of a minor, as evidenced by a certified copy of a court order.
  - F. **Guardian:** A person authorized by a child's custodial parent or legal guardian to be responsible for a child while visiting a correctional institution. This authorization shall be evidenced by a notarized statement from the custodial parent or legal guardian submitted to the institution for file.
- V. **POLICY:** The TDOC shall allow inmates visitation privileges within the following guidelines.
- VI. **PROCEDURES:**
  - A. **Guidelines**
    1. Local rules pertaining to visiting shall be available to all staff, inmates and visitors.
      - a. In addition to continual posting in an area accessed by visitors, a visitors handbook shall be produced and made available for new applicants who provide a self-addressed stamped envelope with their application. Additional copies will



Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 2 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

be available at checkpoint.

- b. Whenever possible, visitation policies or procedural changes should be posted on bulletin boards, announced to inmate council and published in inmate newspapers thirty (30) days in advance.
2. Visitation areas should have facilities accessible to handicapped visitors, including restrooms and entrance ramps to the visitation area.
3. The warden of an institution which has a medium custody or higher security housing component shall develop a local policy which governs non-contact visiting. This policy shall include, but not be limited to, the use of non-contact visitation as an alternative to:
  - a. suspension of visitation privileges
  - b. full reinstatement of visitation privileges following a suspension
  - c. maximum security.

This policy will be submitted through the regional administrators to the Assistant Commissioner of Adult Institutions for approval.

4. Each institution shall be responsible for providing information to visitors about possible transportation to the institution and directions on how to reach the facility.

**B. Approval and List**

1. A list of approved visitors shall be recorded during each inmate's initial classification.
2. Blank copies of Visitation Application Form, CR-2152, shall be furnished to all inmates, with written instructions that prospective visitors shall complete and return the forms with a current photograph attached to the warden within thirty (30) days. Applications received should be approved or denied within thirty (30) days of receipt.
3. No visitor shall be admitted for visitation until the application is approved, except for immediate family visitors of newly committed inmates. In such instances, the warden shall cause the names of the inmate's immediate family members to be tentatively added to the approved visitors list, pending the receipt of the visitation application. The pending/temporary visitation approval shall only remain in effect for sixty (60) days.
4. If the warden's designee approves the applicant visitor, the name shall be entered into TOMIS conversation LCDN and approved on TOMIS conversation LCD2. The warden shall make the final decision when an applicant is initially disapproved by a designated reviewer. The inmate shall receive notification within thirty (30) days of receipt of the application as to whether or not his/her visitor is approved. If disapproved, a reason(s) shall be noted. It shall then be the inmate's responsibility to advise the visitation applicant of the approval or denial. The inmate may appeal a disapproval through the grievance procedure. (See Policy #501.01.)

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 3 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

5. Approval of visitors shall be at the warden's discretion, in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - a. All immediate family members who apply and eight (8) additional adults may be approved to visit an inmate upon receipt of CR-2152.
  - b. Children under 12 years of age may visit without being on the inmate's Approved Visitors List, provided that Section VI.(B)(5)(a) is met. Identification is not required for children under 16 years of age but there must be a visitor application form with picture on file.
  - c. All visitors under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an approved visitor who is either the child's parent, legal guardian or guardian. (The custodial parent or legal guardian must provide notarized permission for the visitor to bring the child to visit.)
  - d. Persons 16 and 17 years of age may visit without adult supervision provided the visitor is a member of the inmate's immediate family and the custodial parent or legal guardian(s) has provided notarized written permission for the child to visit and to be searched by institutional employees and the warden has granted approval.
  - e. If a visitor is under 18 and not a member of the inmate's immediate family, the visitor must be accompanied by an approved visitor who is the child's parent, legal guardian or guardian.
  - f. Members of the clergy, as recognized by the chaplain or warden, need not be placed on the Approved Visitors List.
  - g. Attorneys of record need not be placed on the Approved Visitors List.
  - h. Persons the warden determines could have a harmful influence on the inmate and/or may constitute a threat to the security of the institution, shall not be approved for visitation.
  - i. Persons with past criminal records should not be automatically excluded from visiting. The nature and extent of an individual's criminal record and his/her history of recent criminal activity shall be weighed against the benefits of visitation in determining visitation eligibility by the warden.
  - j. Contract employees and former TDOC employees who are within one (1) year of their employment with the department, may not be approved unless the institutional warden and regional administrator review the application and agree that unusual circumstances in that particular case warrant an exception.
  - k. Any falsification of the CR-2152 by a visitor may be cause to deny approval or to withdraw approval of the visitors.

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 4 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

- l. A person participating as a volunteer shall not be placed on an inmate visitation list.
- m. Visitors may not be placed on more than one (1) inmate visiting list unless the inmate(s) is an immediate family member of the visitor and the relationship can be substantiated.
- n. Additions or substitutions to the approved list shall be made quarterly throughout the inmate's incarceration by the same application and approval system cited above.

C. File

- 1. All copies of CR-2152 received from visitor applicants shall also be maintained in the visitation file, clearly marked approved or disapproved with the signatures of the warden/designee.
- 2. All of these documents shall subsequently be transferred as a part of the inmate's institutional record whenever the inmate is assigned to a different institution. (See Policy #403.01.1.)
- 3. Each institution shall maintain a record of the names of all visitors admitted to the institution to visit inmates. This record may be maintained together with and/or separate from the inmate's visitation file. In either case, the record of visitors admitted for visits shall remain at the institution where the visit occurred. Visitor arrivals and departures shall be entered into TOMIS conversation LIMM.

D. Schedule

- 1. The warden shall establish a routine schedule of visiting which shall include Saturdays, Sundays and state holidays. Visitation shall also occur one (1) evening per week to ensure visiting privileges for those inmates unable to visit on weekends. This should not be construed as allowing a visitor to visit both on the regularly scheduled weekend/holiday schedule and the special week day visitation. Institutional space and personnel resources and schedule should be the only reasons to limit the number of visitors or length of visits. The warden, or designee, may approve other times for visitation due to unusual circumstances. Hours of visits should not interfere with the inmates' work, education or vocational training schedule.
- 2. The warden or designee may approve the following types of special visits for persons on or not on approved list. If absolutely necessary, they may be approved for hours other than those regularly scheduled for visitation. Approved/disapproved special visiting requests will be placed in the inmate's visitation file.
  - a. Visitors who have traveled great distance
  - b. Children, as part of a special program to promote family bonding
  - c. Attorneys (See Policy #105.09.)

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 5 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

- d. Prospective employers, sponsors or parole advisors
  - e. Physicians, psychiatrists or other health professionals (See Policy #113.30.)
  - f. Persons significant to the inmate for purposes of crisis intervention
  - g. Official visitors.
- 3. A schedule of state holidays shall be posted on a bulletin board that is accessible to visitors.
  - 4. The visitation schedule for segregated inmates should accommodate the number of visitors, length and frequency of visits mandated by Policy #506.16.
  - 5. Punitively segregated inmates may be allowed visits. At the discretion of the warden, punitively segregated inmates may visit in an area within the segregation unit or may visit as scheduled with the general population.
  - 6. During an institutional emergency, visitation may be cancelled as deemed appropriate by the warden.

E. Security

- 1. Visitors shall not enter any areas of the institution except for approved visitation areas and approved routes to and from those areas.
- 2. All visitors shall be searched as specified in Policy #506.06.
- 3. If contraband is found to be in the possession of a visitor, the contraband shall be confiscated and the visitor may be detained for law enforcement officials and possible felony prosecution as per T.C.A. 39-16-201. If the visitor refuses to be detained, force should not be used to accomplish this. Vital information such as name, address, phone number, automobile make and model, description, license plate number and state where issued should be documented and forwarded immediately to the officer in charge, who in turn should notify appropriate authorities. An incident report shall be submitted. (See Policy #103.02.)

F. Denial, Termination and Suspension of Visits

- 1. The intended visit may be denied for any reason including, but not limited to:
  - a. A visitor refuses to show appropriate and bona fide identification
  - b. A visitor refuses to submit to a search
  - c. A visitor appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
  - d. There is insufficient space for visiting

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 6 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

- e. Possession of contraband
  - f. Inappropriate dress.
2. Visits may be terminated at any time by the warden's designee upon recommendation by the officer in charge of the visiting area; however, less restrictive measures may be used, such as warning the inmate and/or the visitor(s). Examples of reasons for termination include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Visitors who violate visitation conduct rules
    - b. Visitors who fail to control their children.
  3. Whenever a visit is denied or terminated, a detailed written report shall be prepared by the official taking the action. A copy of the report shall be forwarded to the warden. The statement of reasons by the reporting officer shall provide details of the inappropriate visitor actions.
  4. Other than as specified in Policy #502.01, only the warden can suspend visitation privileges. In addition to the visitor involved in misconduct, the warden may suspend all of the inmate's approved visitors, except attorneys and the inmate's immediate family who were not involved in the misconduct, for any misconduct involving the inmate and a visitor. Upon determining that visitation shall be suspended, the warden shall provide a written notice to the inmate, visitor and visitation staff. The statement of reasons may be limited to the extent it would jeopardize the security of the institution or the safety of any individual. Visiting privileges may be suspended for up to six (6) months for any reason, including, but not limited to, the following:
    - a. Upon reviewing a denial/termination report, the warden determines suspension is warranted
    - b. The visitor(s) and/or inmate have become intoxicated during the visit
    - c. Visitor repeatedly violated visiting rules
    - d. Visitor continually failed to control children
    - e. Visitor exhibits other behavior and action which the warden in his/her discretion decides could jeopardize the security of the institution
    - f. Visitors refuse a frisk or strip search.
  5. If the visitor is arrested, his/her visitation privileges shall be suspended pending disposition of the case and may be suspended for:
    - a. Any portion of six (6) months, or
    - b. The duration of any court sentence including terms of probation, incarceration

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 7 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

and parole.

6. All suspensions imposed shall be for definite periods of time.
7. The visitor may be required to reapply for visiting privileges in accordance with Section VI.(B) above at the discretion of the warden.

G. Institutional Clinic

Inmates who are patients in the institutional infirmary shall be allowed visits in a time, place and manner as scheduled by the warden or his/her designee on a regular basis provided that the attending physician/health provider allows it.

H. Outside Hospital

1. Inmates who are patients in community hospitals shall not be allowed visits, unless:
  - a. The hospitalization exceeds two (2) weeks continuous duration, or
  - b. The inmate is in critical condition, and
  - c. The warden/designee approves the visit.
2. Visitation shall be restricted to two (2) visitations per week unless the inmate is critical and a maximum of one-half hour per day per approved visitor during established hospital visitation hours, unless further restricted by the attending physician.
3. Hospital visiting rules as well as TDOC rules are to be obeyed.
4. No gifts, food or packages shall be allowed for inmate patients.
5. Visits shall be subject to termination and/or suspension under the same criteria as with institutional visits.
6. The officer(s) in charge shall maintain a log of names of each visitor, time of arrival and time of departure. That log shall become part of the record referenced in Section VI.(C)(3) above.

I. Visitation Areas

1. All institution visits shall take place in areas designated by the warden. The area should allow reasonable ease of communication as well as some degree of privacy, and as much freedom from security constraints as possible.

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 8 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

- a. Minimum custody designated inmates shall be given the most flexibility and choices about areas for visitation.
- b. Maximum and close level 4 custody designated inmates shall be restricted to more secure areas for visiting due to supervision requirements. Segregated inmates may likewise be restricted.
- c. Attorneys and inmate clients shall, upon request, be afforded privacy for their visits.
- d. Outside visitation areas may be designated by the warden for use when the climate permits for inmates designated as minimum or medium custody. The warden shall develop local procedures governing the use of this area as it pertains to food items if this area is also designated for use as a picnic area.

2. Vending machines may be furnished in visitation areas.

J. Property of Visitors

1. Except for privileged official visitors or as specified in Policy #507.02, visitors shall not be allowed to deliver packages, correspondence, money or printed materials to inmates. All such items shall be mailed.
2. Visitors shall not be allowed to bring any items into visitation areas except:
  - a. Two (2) unopened packages of cigarettes or cigars or pipe tobacco and/or pipe per adult visitor if smoking is permitted in the visitation area.
  - b. Two (2) books of matches per adult
  - c. \$10.00 in coins for the first person, and \$3.00 in coins for each additional person
  - d. Baby items (i.e. diapers, formula, unopened sealed baby food, etc.)
  - e. Car keys
  - f. Pagers
    - (1) Visitor will provide information to the warden on CR-2152 regarding the reason for the pager; i.e., employer, likely callers, etc. This information, in addition to the warden's approval or denial, will be maintained in the visitor's file.
    - (2) At each visit, the visitor will:
      - (a) Open pager, remove and replace batteries, and open any other compartments which can be opened without tools

Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 9 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

- (b) Demonstrate that pager is functional. If pager is not functional, visitor will be responsible for leaving pager outside the facility. Staff will not accept custody of the pager.
- (c) Place pager in "vibrate" mode if so equipped.
- (d) Wear pager in conspicuous place during visit
- (e) Upon leaving visitation, open pager, remove and replace batteries, open any other compartments which can be opened without tools, and demonstrate that pager is functional.
- (3) Staff will not be responsible for loss or damage to pager during visitation. This will be included in the visitors handbook.
- (4) Visitors must retain sole possession of pager during visit.

- 3. All other items shall be placed by the visitor either in institution lockers, where provided, or in their private cars.

VII. ACA STANDARDS: 2-2169, 3-4149, 3-4162, 3-4164, 3-4165, 3-4255, 3-4440, 3-4441, 3-4442, 3-4445, 3-4446, 11211.

VIII. EXPIRATION DATE: January 15, 1998.



Effective Date: January 15, 1995	Index # 507.01	Page 10 of 10
Subject: VISITATION		

**TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION  
ADULT INSTITUTIONS  
VISITATION APPLICATION**

INSTITUTION: \_\_\_\_\_ INMATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TDOC#: \_\_\_\_\_

READ CAREFULLY: All questions must be answered. Any omissions or falsifications will be considered sufficient reason for disapproval for visitation. Please attach recent photograph in lower left hand corner or application will not be processed. Return this form to the warden of the above noted institution. This application will become part of the inmate's institutional record under the provisions of T.C.A. 4-3-603, 4-3-606, and 4-6-140. It will be considered a public record available for review by the general public, subject to the procedures established in the above cited statutes.

NAME		RACE (circle one)	RELATIONSHIP TO INMATE
LAST		A - Asian or Pacific Islander	AU - Aunt
FIRST		B - Black	BR - Brother
MIDDLE		H - Hispanic	CO - Cousin
		I - American Indian/Alaskan Native	DA - Daughter
ADDRESS		W - White	FA - Father
STREET			FC - Foster Child
CITY		HAIR COLOR (circle one)	NI - Niece
STATE		BAL - Bald	FP - Foster Parent
ZIP		BLK - Black	FR - Friend
TELEPHONE NUMBER		BLN - Blonde/Strawberry	GF - Grandfather
		BRO - Brown	GM - Grandmother
		GRY - Gray	HU - Husband
		RED - Red/Auburn	MO - Mother
SEX (circle one)		SDY - Sandy	SB - Step Brother
M - Male		WHI - White	SD - Step Daughter
F - Female			SF - Step Father
MARITAL STATUS		EYE COLOR (circle one)	SI - Sister
		BLK - Black	SN - Son
		BLU - Blue	SM - Step Mother
		GRN - Green	SR - Step Sister
DATE OF BIRTH		GRY - Gray	SS - Step Son
MONTH		HAZ - Hazel	UN - Uncle
DAY			WI - Wife
YEAR		COMPLEXION (circle one)	NE - Nephew
HEIGHT/WEIGHT		BLK - Black	
FEET		DBR - Dark Brown	Are you required to carry a pager?
INCHES		DRK - Dark	YES _____ NO _____
WEIGHT		FAR - Fair	If Yes, please state why:
DRIVER LICENSE INFO		LBR - Light Brown	
		LGT - Light	
		MED - Medium	
STATE		MBR - Medium Brown	
NUMBER		YEL - Yellow	

Are you currently on the visiting list of an inmate confined in the Tennessee Department of Correction? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 If Yes, what is his/her name \_\_\_\_\_, Number \_\_\_\_\_, Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
 Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ If Yes, please list offense(s), date, location, disposition/sentence, and TDOC number if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

ATTACH RECENT PHOTO HERE

YOUR SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: (1) If you are under 18 years of age, your parent or legal guardian's approval must be indicated by notarized signature. If signed by legal guardian, a copy of certified court order granting guardianship must be attached. (2) Visitors' handbooks are available upon receipt of a self-addressed stamped envelope with this application.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Warden's Designee

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Warden's Signature  
(Required only if Disapproved by Designee)